



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Irish Planning Institute

IPI Members Briefing: Marine Spatial Planning

OUR SEAS – OUR PLAN

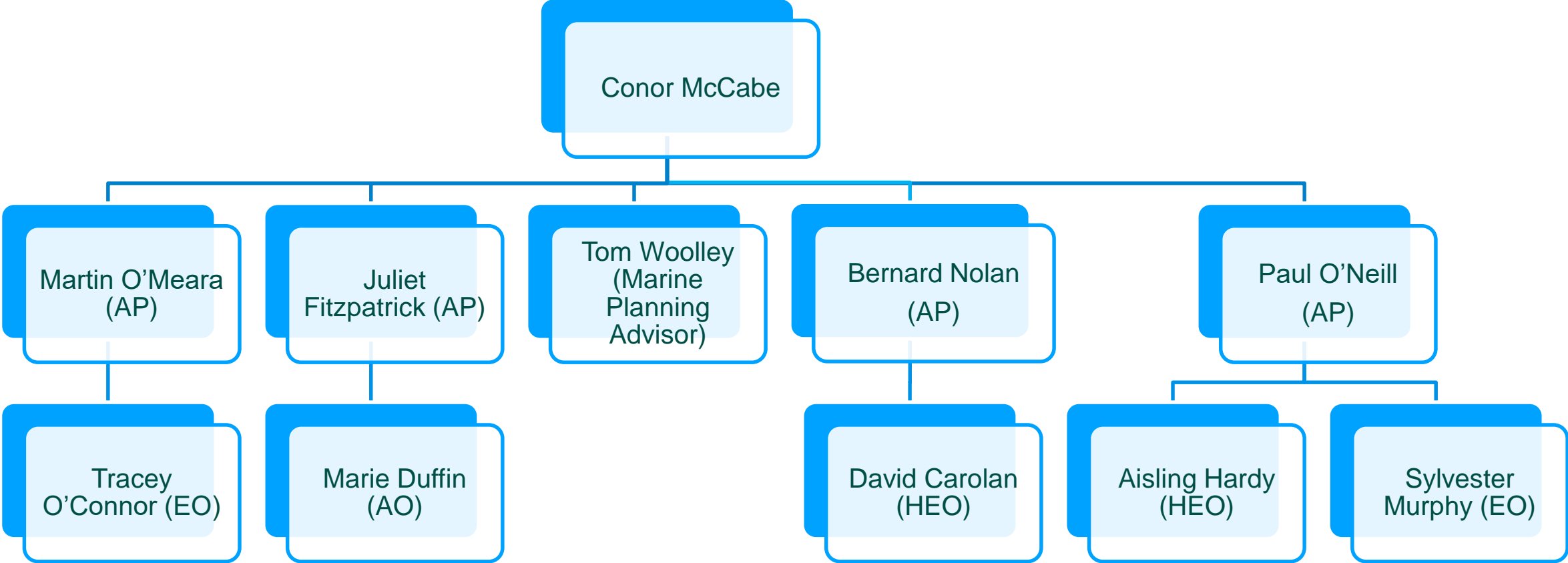
www.marineplan.ie

Overview

- Background – State of MSP in Ireland
- Maritime Area Planning Bill (formerly the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill)
- The NMPF
 - The final document
 - Example policies and application
- Digital tools
- Next steps

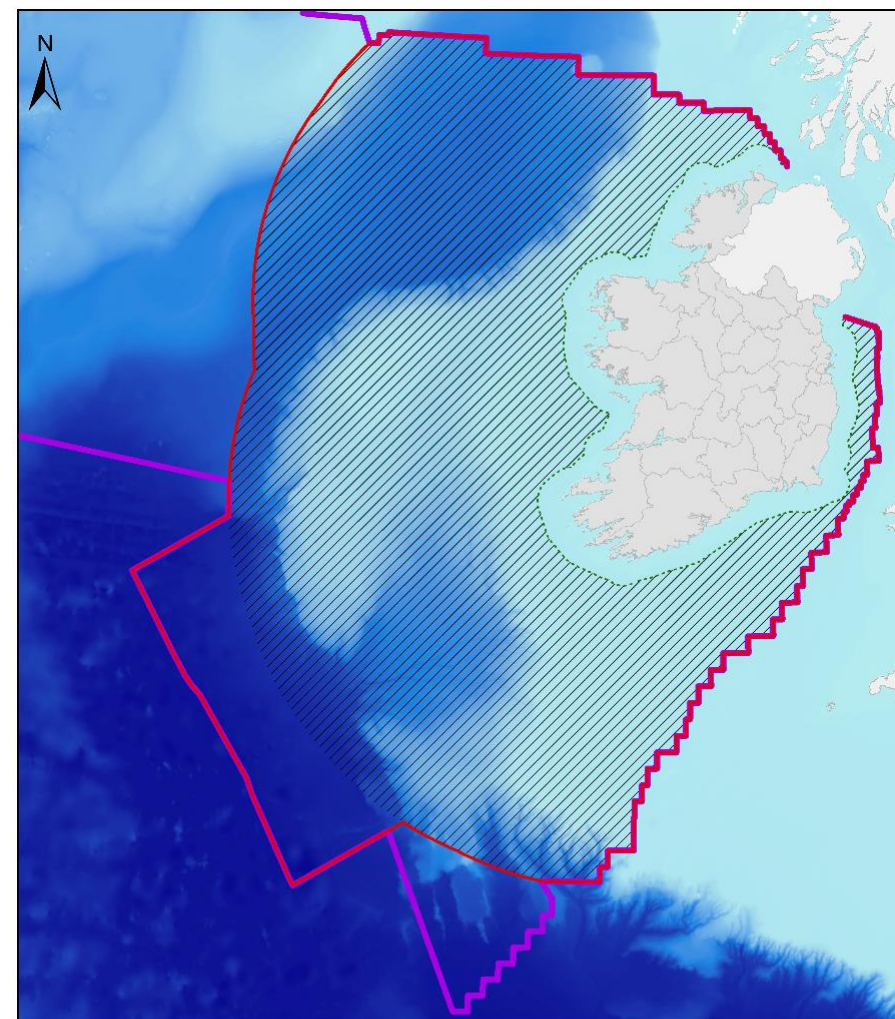


Marine Planning Policy and Legislation Section



Ireland's maritime area

- Our maritime area is seven times the landmass of Ireland, over 490,000 square kilometres
- When we take our seabed area into account, Ireland is one of the largest EU States



This map is to be used for reference only. Please refer to the www.marineplan.ie to explore the most up to date National Marine Planning Framework data.

Ireland's Maritime Boundaries

- National Marine Planning Framework Area
- Currently Designated Continental Shelf Boundary
- ⋯ 12NM Territorial Sea Limit
- /// Exclusive Economic Zone
- Local Authority Area

0 50 100 200 Kilometres



Reform of Marine Management in Ireland



- ❑ National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)
- ❑ Maritime Area Planning Bill (formerly the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill)
- ❑ Maritime Jurisdiction Bill (DFA)
- ❑ Expanding Ireland's Marine Protected Area Network
 - ❑ Consultation open until 30th of July



Marine Planning Challenge

A planning system generally comprises three main elements:

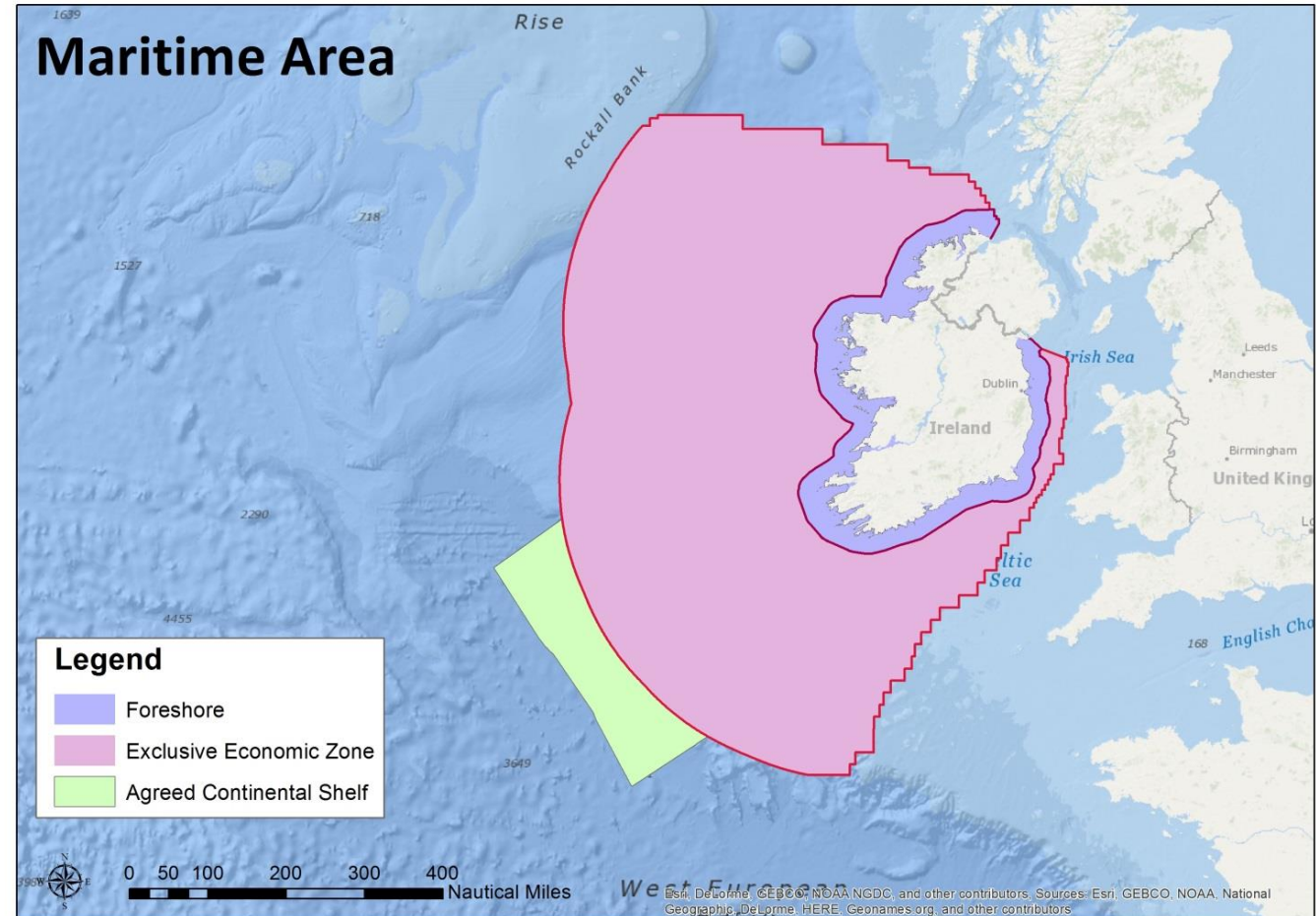
1. Forward planning - (NPF, RSES, CDPs, LAPs);
2. Development Management (Planning Permission, licensing/permitting, and Consent);
3. Enforcement (Compliance and monitoring).



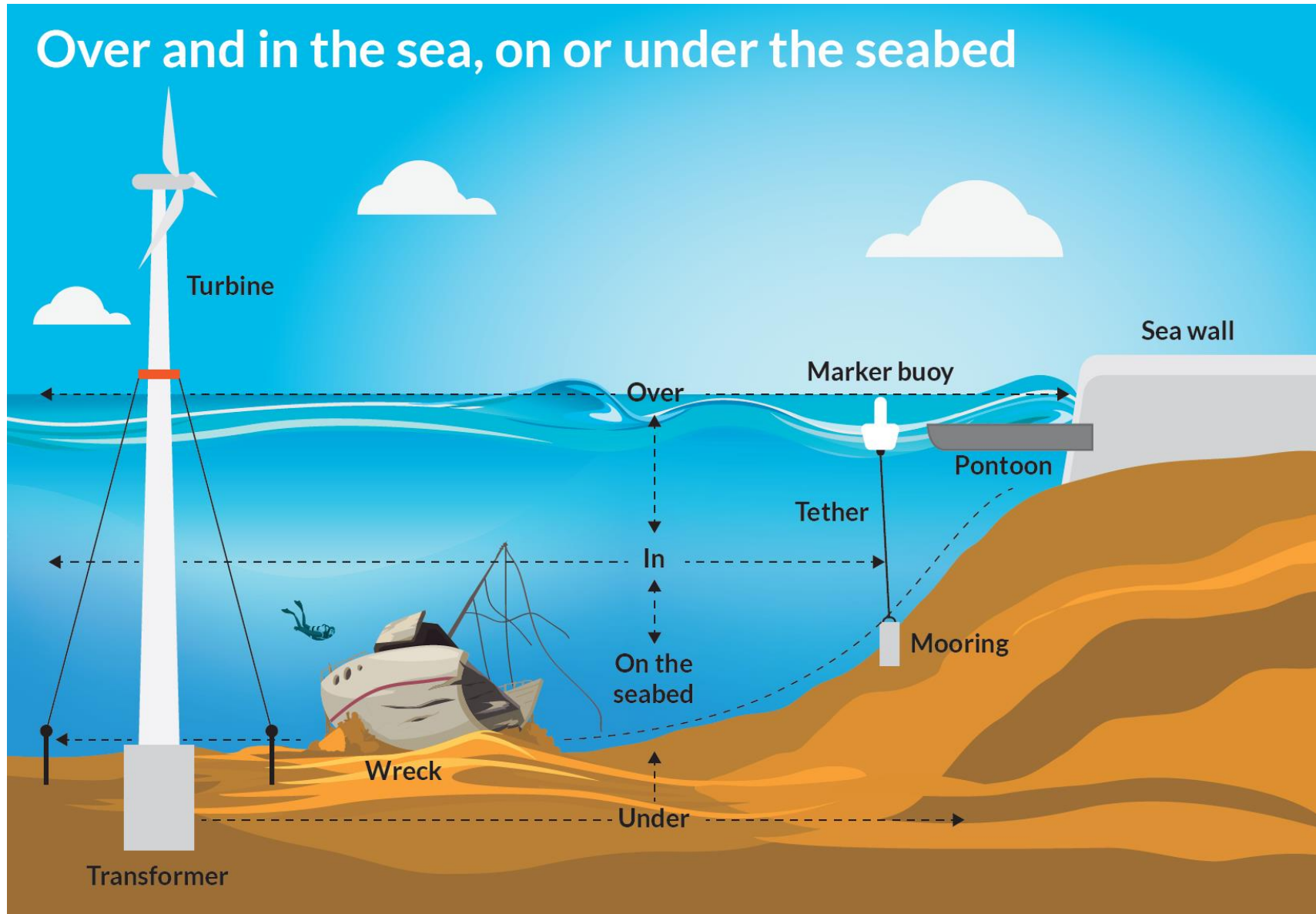
MAP Bill (MAPB) Creating a Coherent Planning System



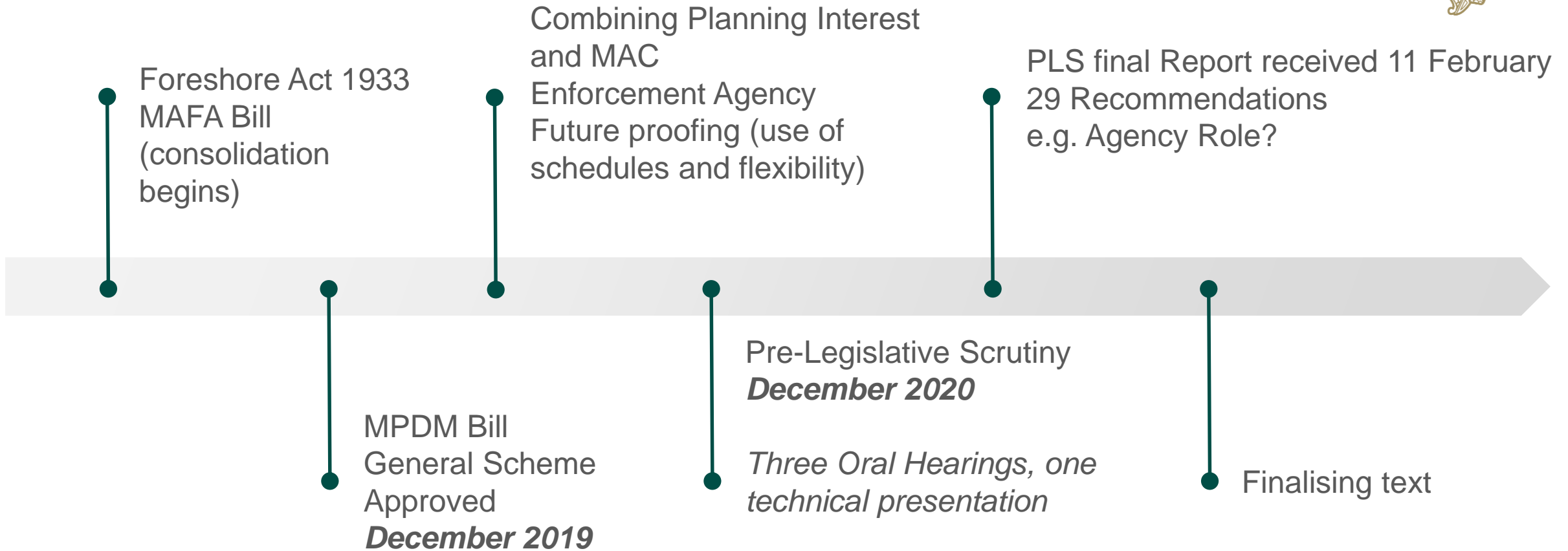
- Provide the legal basis for Ireland's Marine Planning System
- Manage development in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and on the continental shelf
- Creates
 - Forward Planning
 - State Consent – Maritime Area Consent
 - Development Management – LA and ABP
 - Licensing/permitting of activities
 - Enforcement



MAPB



Evolution of the Bill



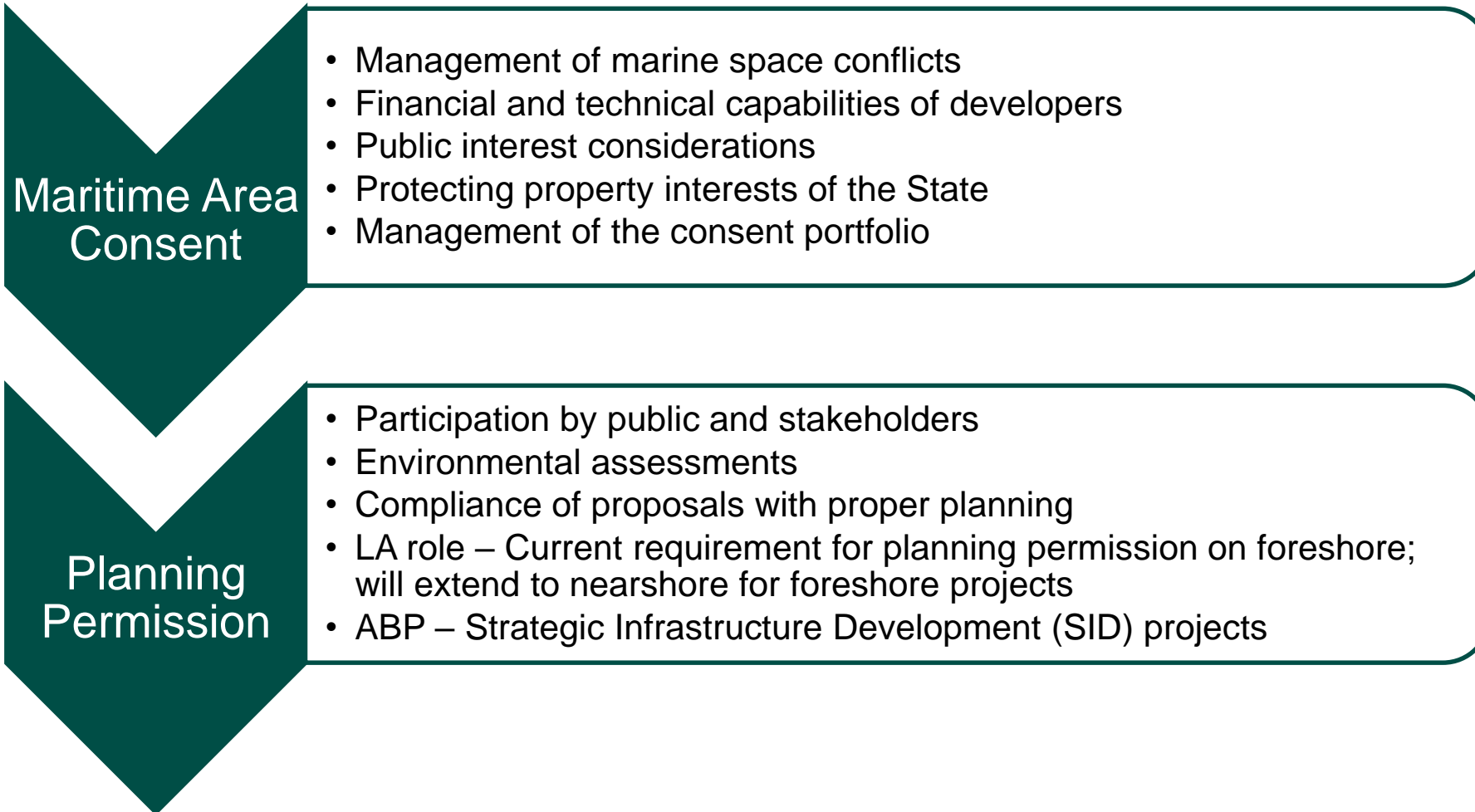
Current Foreshore Consent and Planning Process



Future Sequential Process

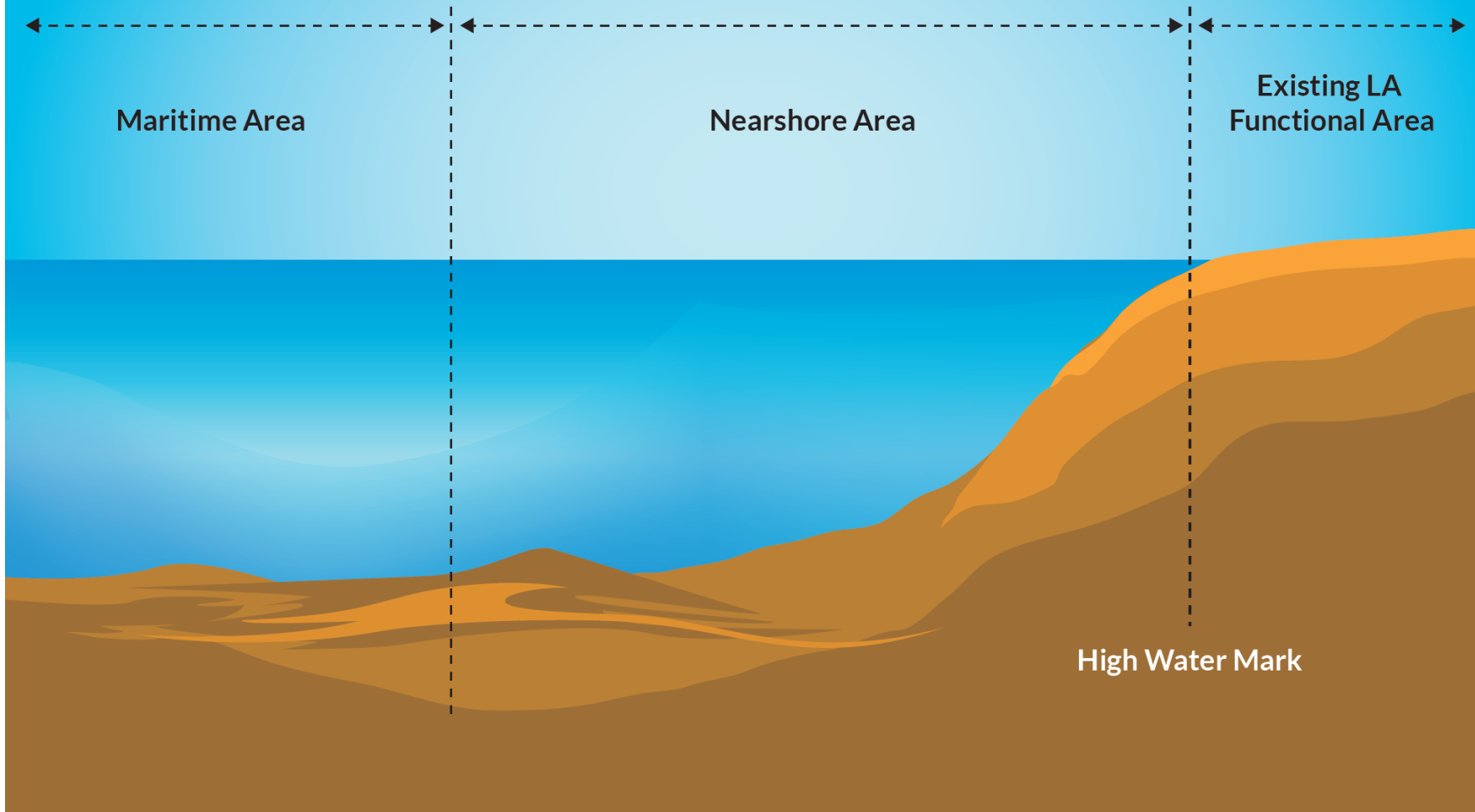


MAPB – A Coherent Planning System

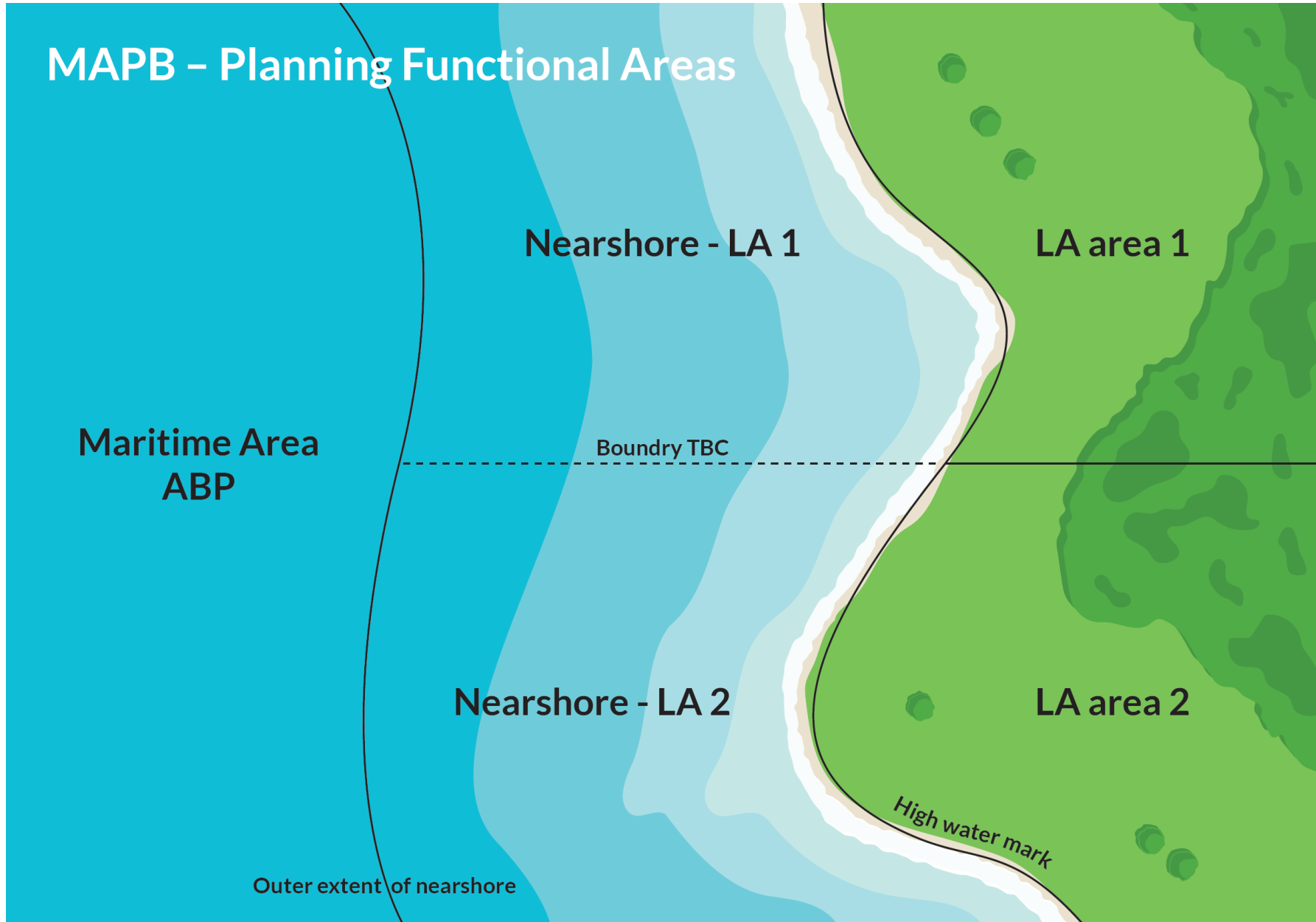




MAPB – Planning Functional Areas



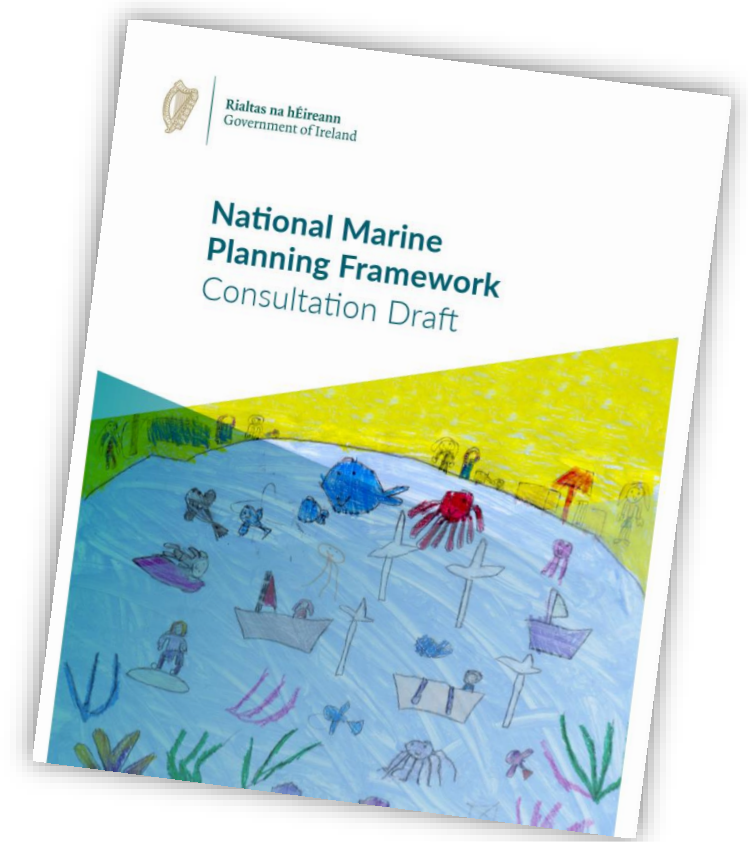
MAPB – Planning Functional Areas





National Marine Planning Framework

- Long term planning framework for how we use, protect, enjoy seas – out to 2040;
- Parallel to National Planning Framework;
- Sector by sector elaboration of guiding objectives and planning policies (aquaculture through to waste water)
- Critical basis for future decision making by marine decisions makers - obliged to implement NMPF;
- Project Ireland Marine 2040

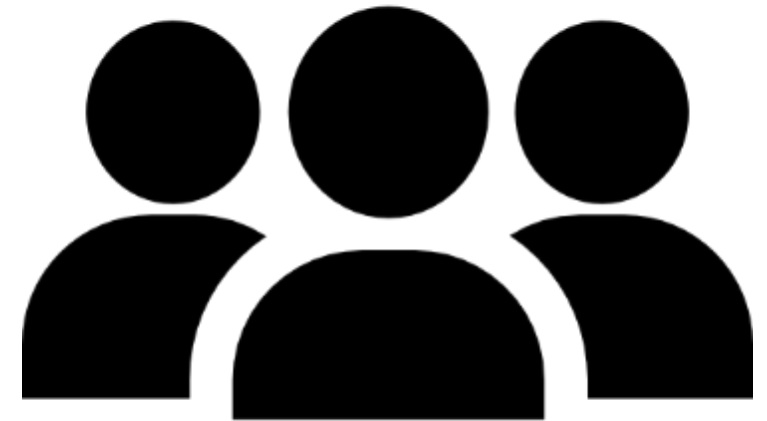


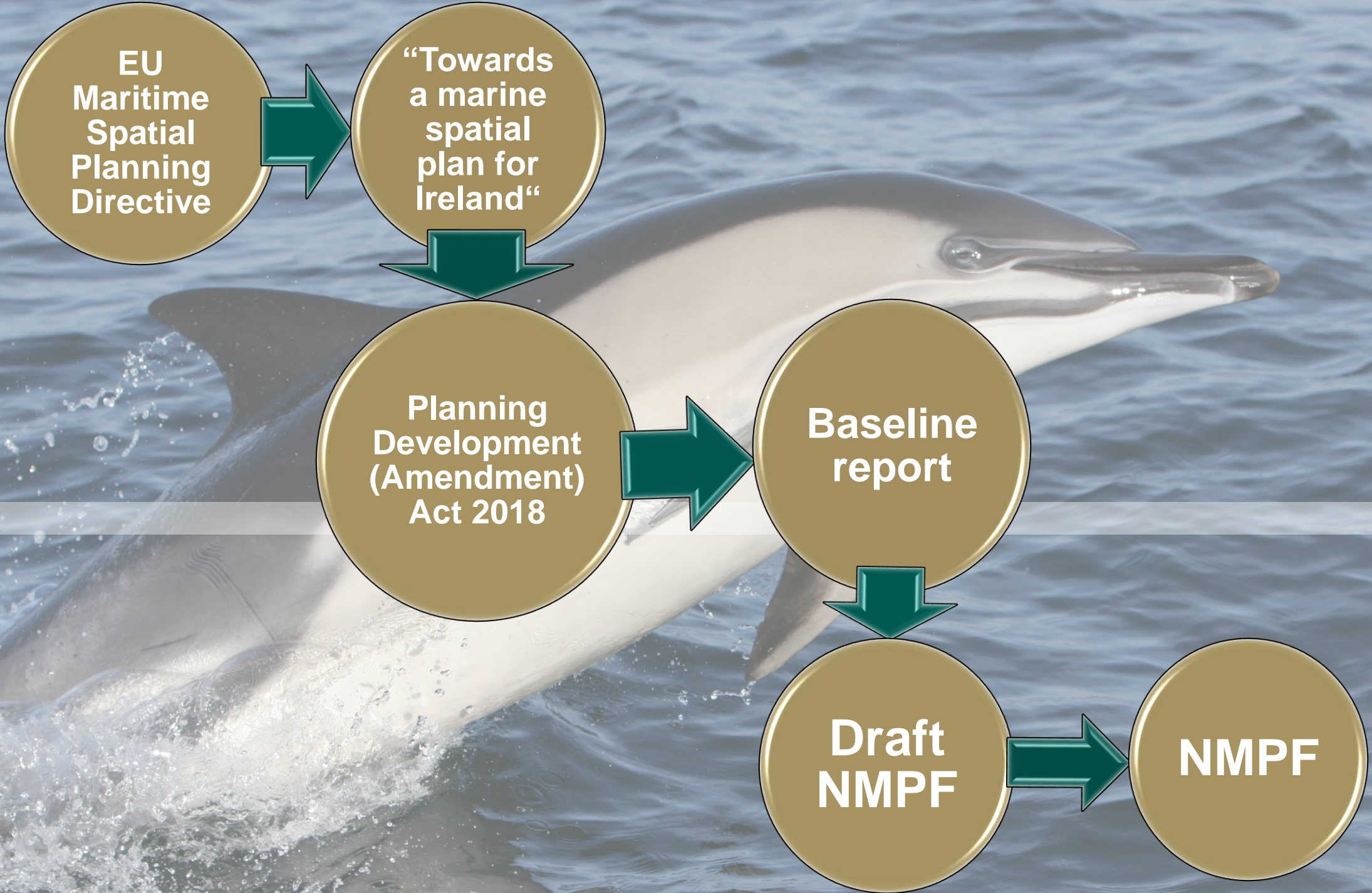
Who is involved?



As well as Marine Planning Policy and Legislation section:

- Multi-sectoral NMPF Advisory Group chaired by Minister Burke
- Inter-Departmental Group Chaired by DHLGH
- Scientific and Technical support from the Marine Institute
- SEA and AA undertaken with RPS
- Public engagement – in person and online





**EU
Maritime
Spatial
Planning
Directive**

**"Towards
a marine
spatial
plan for
Ireland"**

**Planning
Development
(Amendment)
Act 2018**

**Baseline
report**

**Draft
NMPF**

NMPF

Structure – NMPF Chapters



- Applicable to **proposals** in the maritime area
 - A proposal in the context of the policies outlined in the Framework include any plan, project, policy or application under or involving any of the sectoral activities included in the Framework (public body functions under Planning and Development Act (Amended) (2018), Part 5, S.74 (2))
- The three Sustainable Development Pillars i.e. **social, environmental and economic**, and activities listed under specific headings
- Chapter structure:
 - *Vision/Objectives*
 - *Planning Policies*
 - *Key References*
 - *Background Text*
 - *Stakeholder Stories*
 - *Photos*
 - *Maps*

NMPF policies



- There are 19 objectives (some multi-pointed) and 92 policies
- These cover:

Overarching

- **Environmental – Ocean health**
 - Biodiversity
 - Protected Marine Sites
 - Non-indigenous Species
 - Water Quality
 - Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity
 - Marine Litter
 - Underwater Noise
 - Air Quality
 - Climate Change
- **Economic – Thriving Maritime Economy**
 - Co-existence
 - Infrastructure
- **Social – Engagement with the Sea**
 - Access
 - Employment
 - Heritage Assets
 - Rural Coastal and Island Communities
 - Seascape and Landscape
 - Social Benefits
 - Transboundary

Key Sectoral / Activities

1. Aquaculture
2. Defence and Security
3. Energy – Emerging Technologies (Carbon Capture and Storage, and Hydrogen)
4. Energy – Natural Gas Storage
5. Energy – Transmission
6. Energy – Petroleum
7. Energy – Offshore Renewable Energy
8. Fisheries
9. Mineral Exploration and Mining
10. Ports, Harbours and Shipping
11. Safety at Sea
12. Seaweed Harvesting
13. Sport and Recreation
14. Telecommunications
15. Tourism
16. Waste Water Treatment and Disposal

Sector/Activity Marine Planning Objectives

Example: Offshore Renewable Energy



- Support the development of ORE in Ireland as a driver to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the move to cleaner energy in line with national and EU policy.
- Increase the sustainable ORE use of our extensive marine resource in an efficient and co-ordinated manner identifying, where possible, potential for synergies and opportunities for multi-use of our shared maritime area.
- Support the strategic growth of the ORE industry recognising the potential to derive benefits particularly for Ireland's coastal communities.
- Ensure good regulatory practices in ORE installation and generation, including decommissioning of existing facilities at end of life, according to international best practice.



Sector/Activity Marine Planning Policies



Examples:

Ports, Harbours and Shipping 4 – *Avoiding impact on ports through engagement*

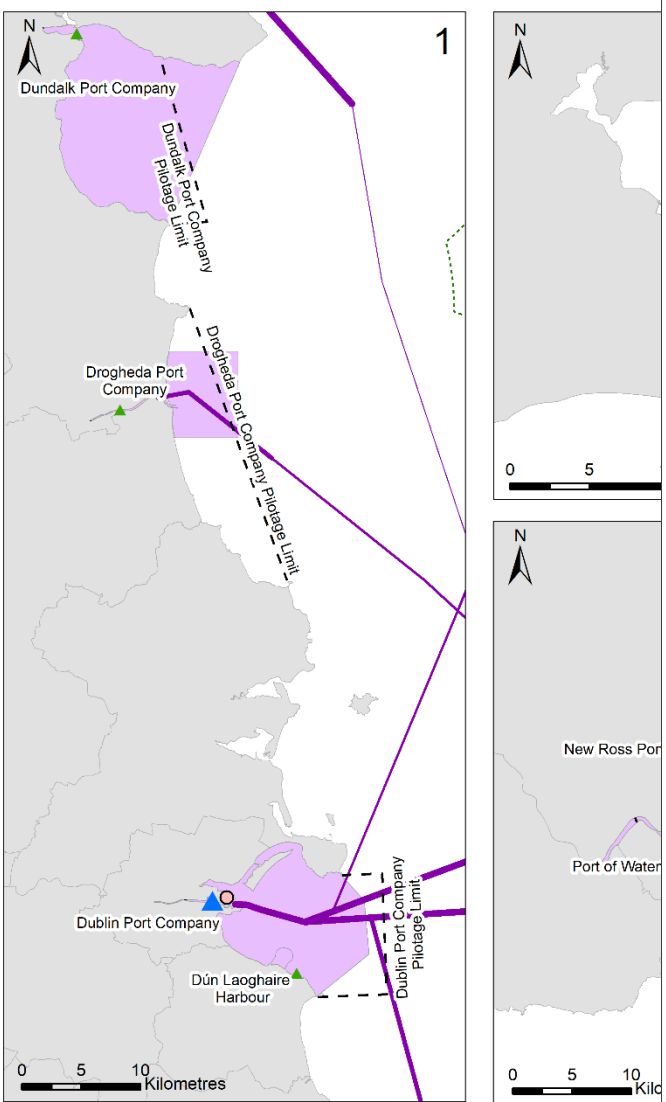
Proposals within ports limits, beside or in the vicinity of ports, and / or that impact upon the main routes of significance to a port, must demonstrate within applications that they have:

- been informed by consultation at pre-application stage or earlier with the relevant port authority;
- have carried out a navigational risk assessment including an analysis of maritime traffic in the area; and
- have consulted Department of Transport, MSO and Commissioners of Irish Lights.

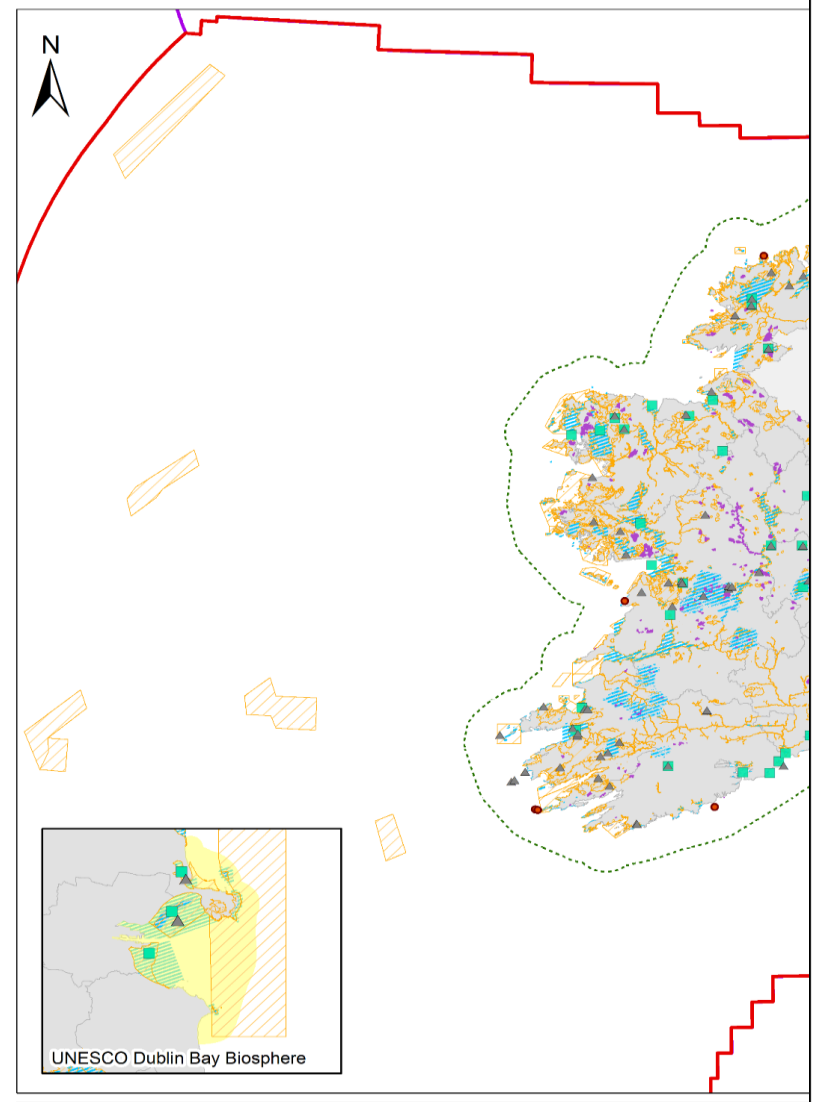
Applicants must continue to engage parties identified in pre-application processes as appropriate during the decision-making process.

Biodiversity 2 – *Protecting, maintaining and restoring habitats & distribution of species*

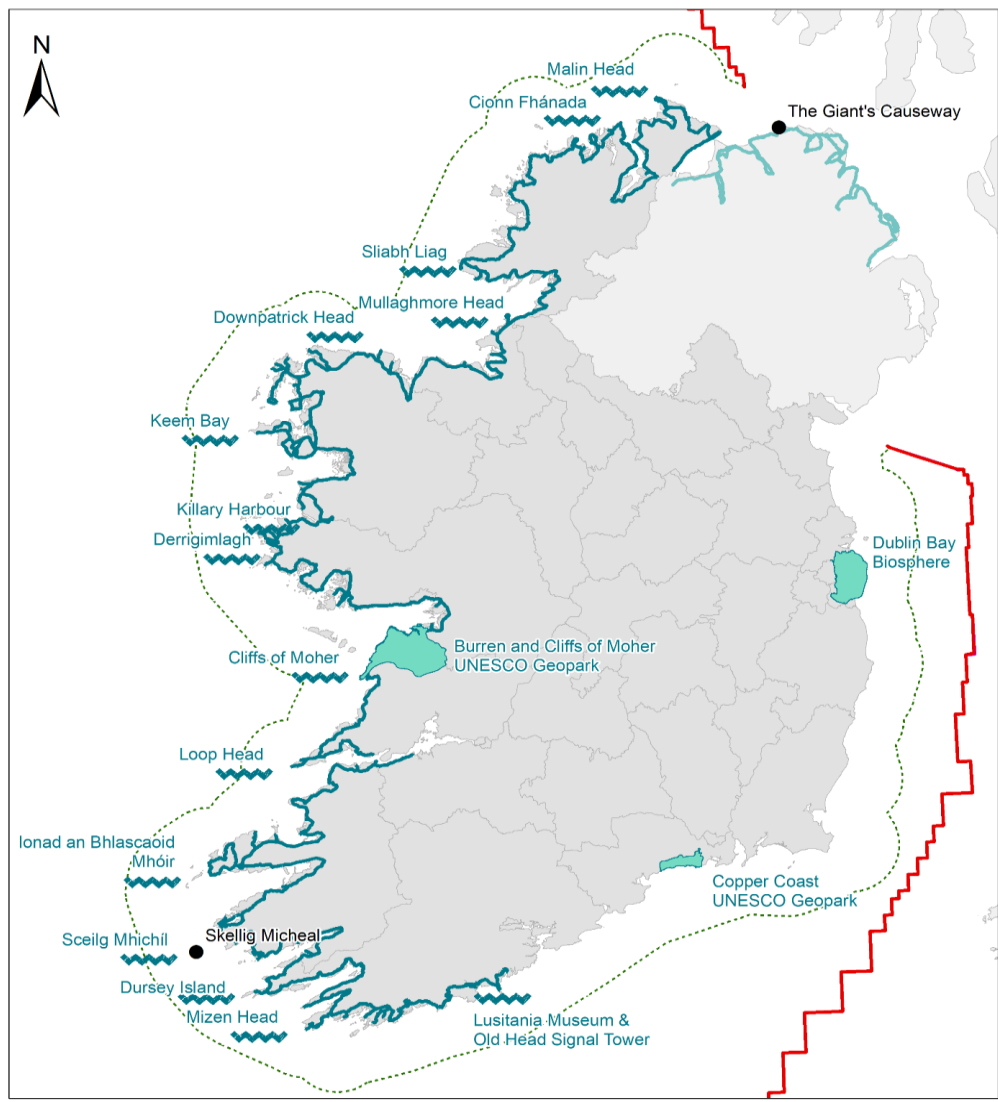
Proposals that protect, maintain, restore and enhance the distribution and net extent of important habitats and distribution of important species will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals must avoid significant reduction in the distribution and net extent of important habitats and other habitats that important species depend on, including avoidance of activity that may result in disturbance or displacement of habitats.



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Insets - Limits of Harbours and Pilotage Districts

- ▲ Tier 1 National Port
- ▲ Tier 2 National Port
- ▲ Regional Port
- Ferry Ports
- Limits of Pilotage Districts
- Limits of Harbours

Designated Sites

- Refuges For Local Fauna
- ▲ Nature Reserves
- RAMSAR Wetland Site
- Natural Heritage Area
- Special Protected Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Dublin Bay Biosphere (core, buffer and transition zones in the maritime area)

The Wild Atlantic Way and Coastal UNESCO Sites

- Signature Discovery Points
- Wild Atlantic Way Route
- Causeway Coastal Route
- UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biospheres (coastal)
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites (coastal)

Credits: EMODnet: Vessel Density (2019); Government of Ireland, Harbours Act: Harbour Limits (2019); Marine Institute: Ferry Ports (2021); MaREI, Marine Irish Digital Atlas: Ports (2014); Marine Institute: Ferry Ports (2021).

Credits: Dublin Bay Biosphere Partnership: Dublin Bay Biosphere (2015); EPA: RAMSAR Wetland Site (2019); Nature Reserves (2016), Refuges for Local Fauna (2021), Special Area of Conservation (2019), Special

Credits: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council: Causeway Coastal Route (2020); Clare County Council: Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Geopark (2020); Copper Coast Geopark Ltd: Copper Coast Geopark (2020); Dublin Bay Biosphere Partnership, Dublin Bay Biosphere (2015); Fáilte Ireland: Signature Discovery Points (2020); Wild Atlantic Way Route (2020); Heritage Council: Coastal UNESCO Heritage Sites (2019).

Examples of changes to chapters in response to comments and of where changes have not been made (and why)



- **Changes**
- Heritage Assets: Respondents identified lack of recognition of intangible heritage assets in draft NMPF
- ‘Background Context’ section of Heritage Assets text amended to include intangible heritage assets- after consultation with Department of Rural and Community Development
- Changes to Maps
- **Changes not made**
- Specific plan proposals - Several submissions called for Marina/Harbour developments in specific locations. The NMPF has no remit or provision for inclusion of specific local plans
- Calls for increased funding for particular activities - Funding is outside remit of NMPF
- Comments relating to future MSP aspects, such as the Spatial Designation Process (zoning) – These comments are for future consideration as MSP evolves beyond the NMPF, but will be considered when that process is being drafted.
- MAP Bill comments have been identified, collated, and passed to MAP Bill team as additional information.

Applying NMPF policies



- Policies should be applied within the decision making systems used by any public authority
 - *At this stage authorities should be looking at the consultation draft NMPF to get comfortable with content and style of plan – different to the NPF*
- Consider which policies are relevant and should shape decisions – this will be determined by looking at:
 - *Location – Is it in or does it result in impact on the maritime area?*
 - *Activity type*
 - *Timing – When will the proposal happen and for how long?*
 - *Scale – ‘significant impact’*
 - *NMPF policy type*
 - Strategic – Apply over the whole plan area e.g. climate change
 - Spatial – Apply to only parts of the maritime area e.g. Ports, Harbours and Shipping 4
 - Methodological (activity specific) e.g. Telecommunications Policy 3

Applying NMPF policies (continued)



- Use of the NMPF does not override the need for other statutory assessments
 - *where appropriate it may be efficient to combine consideration of certain NMPF policies in other assessment processes*
 - *other assessment process may be the route through which NMPF policies are applied*
- Consideration of NMPF policies should shape decisions e.g. content of plans, conditions in authorisations

Designated Marine Area Plans (DMAPs)



- DMAPS – Formerly known as SMAZs and expands to include provisions related to sub-National plans
- MAP Bill provides for sub-national forward planning, including spatial designations, for specified areas/uses
- Any Minister, LA or state agency will be able to bring forward proposals to prepare a DMAP for one or more such areas, but DMAPs will be a matter for collective Government consideration under the NMPP
- This approach will ensure ongoing join up regarding marine forward planning
- The DMAP process will include multiple opportunities for public participation and consultation and will include environmental assessment (SEA and AA)
- DMAPs will be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas
- All DMAPs, when made, will form part of the NMPP, thereby becoming a binding consideration for marine decision makers

Implementation & Monitoring



- Currently focused on meeting requirements under the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 but this will be transferred to the Maritime Area Planning Bill
- Work is ongoing through engagement with bodies including the IPI, LGMA, APB, OPR and with other Departments to identify how best to support implementation of the NMPF
- The NMPF Stakeholder Advisory Group will continue its work with the Department on MSP, including supporting implementation and monitoring
- Following publication of the plan, the Department will begin work with the Marine Institute on developing an NMPF Monitoring Approach that will:
 - Establish indicators related to process, outcome and context
 - Identify baseline data against which the NMPF can be assessed
 - Draw on existing monitoring programmes, identify data sources and gaps
 - Include SEA monitoring requirements

Projects & Actions



- Statutory Marine Planning Guidelines – to be developed under S.28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. First guideline will address ORE, followed by one addressing Development Management
- Marine Plan digital tool: www.marineplan.ie
 - Phase 1: Communicate NMPF requirements in a clear, accessible way utilising 150+ policy-related maritime activity GIS datasets to support plan use – to be in place Summer 2021
 - Phase 2: Develop an end-to-end system that includes forward planning, decision making, enforcement and monitoring – aim for this to be built to accommodate Foreshore-type and ORE decisions first and other maritime area consents over time – accessible via login (European Commission Technical Support Instrument (TSI) funding secured for cross-Government scoping project)
- Seeking to improve spatial, publicly available information relating to telecoms cables
- Additional projects being developed with the MI through ongoing SLA

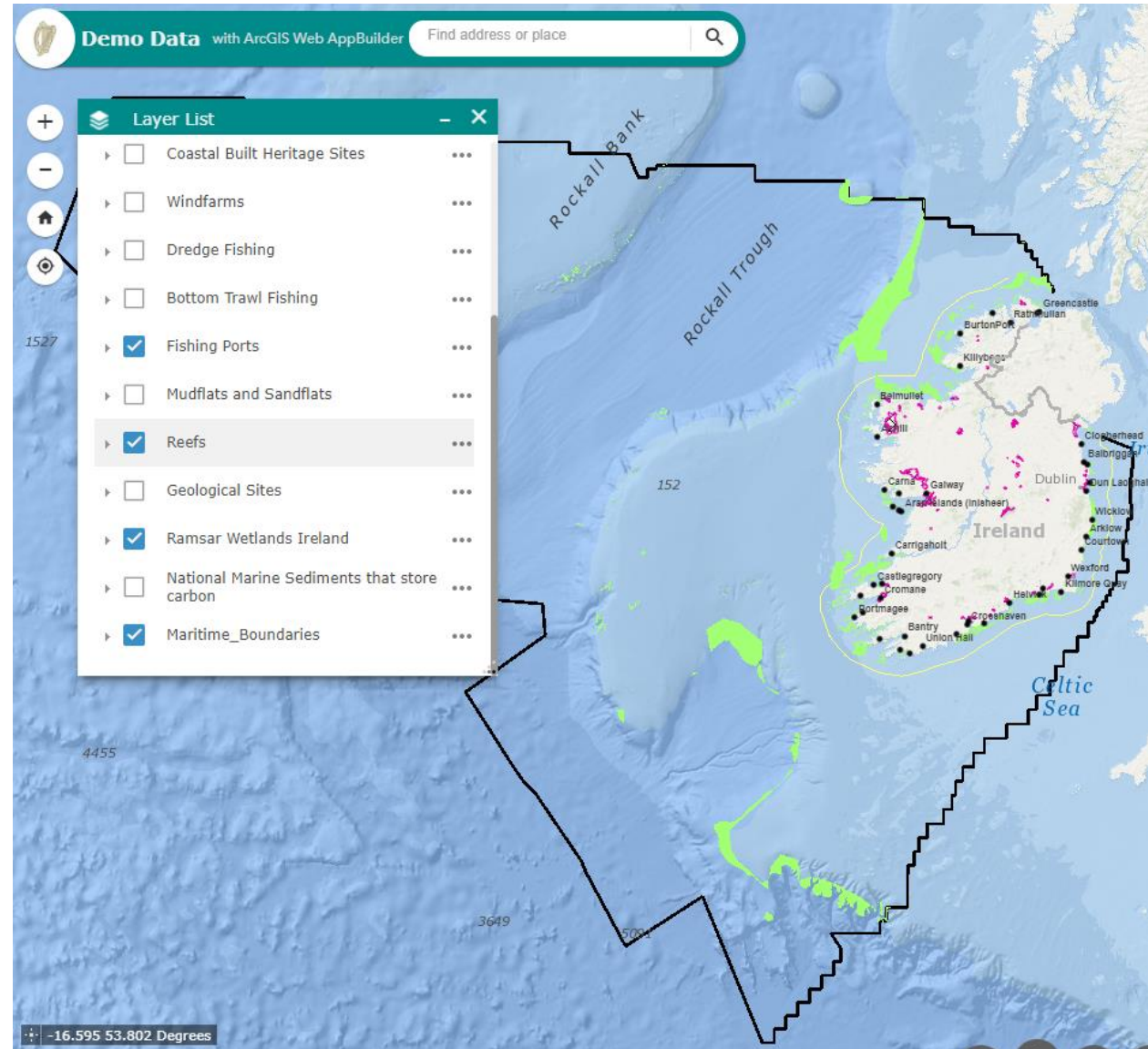
Innovation: Moving from paper to digital



- **Why is a tool is needed?**
- *MSP is a new requirement in Ireland that will be used in maritime area decisions*
- *There are many considerations and it will be necessary to quickly understand what the most appropriate objectives and policies are that relate to a given decision*
- *While text will remain fixed, supporting maps information will change*
- **What Government initiatives does the tool support?**
- *As well as the NMPF, the MAPB and Project Ireland Marine 2040 will be supported*
- **Who might use the tool and what for?**
- *Anyone involved with policy, programmes, plans, development or activity, the giving of any consent or approval, or the grant or issue of licences, or the regulation of any of these functions in the maritime area*

Marineplan.ie : NMPF Digital Hub

- Most up to date maps
- Open data format
- Sector interests
- Hobby interests
- Environmental interests



Users



- Understanding who will use the tool is important in thinking about design. The following are likely users of the system:

Casual User	Informed User	Applicant	Decision maker
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Example: Public• Will likely access the tool and view text and spatial information there; may generate specific report for a particular area; unlikely to download data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Example: NGOs, Academics• Will access the tool identify and view particular information of interest; may download data related to a specific activity or locality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Example: Developer, Consultant• Will access the tool to identify compliance requirements; likely to generate specific report and download related data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Example: Govt. Dept, Agency, Local Authority• Will access the tool to check applications as part of compliance; may access data to integrate into specific decision making / GIS systems

- Design principles: No matter what the user type, it's important that users get to the information they require with as few clicks as possible.



Functionality

- Tool will comprise two main parts: a website where users will arrive and a map-based environment. We aim for marineplan.ie to provide the following:
- *Indication of where various policies in the NMPF apply*
- *Access to all – a public-facing, intuitive interface*
- *Presentation of best available, NMPF-related spatial information*
- *Display of data in a clear way, making it easy to understand*
- *Ability to view summary of NMPF policies in a user-defined geographical area*
- *Links to other websites/datasets/useful tools*
- *Useful GIS tools e.g. selecting, measuring*
- *Ability to download datasets from the tool (where possible)*
- *Future-proof, scalable tools that facilitate future end-to-end MSP system integration (phase 2)*

NMPF next steps

- Consideration by both Houses of the Oireachtas
- Minister formally establishes
- Approved NMPF to European Commission
- Series of online events to launch the plan
- Implementation activity
- Review - required every 6 years but likely sooner





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Government of Ireland

National Marine Planning Framework

Thank You

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