

FACTSHEET FOR SCHOOLS



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications



The National Marine Planning Framework sets out how we use our marine area and seas, and how we plan to use them in the next twenty years.

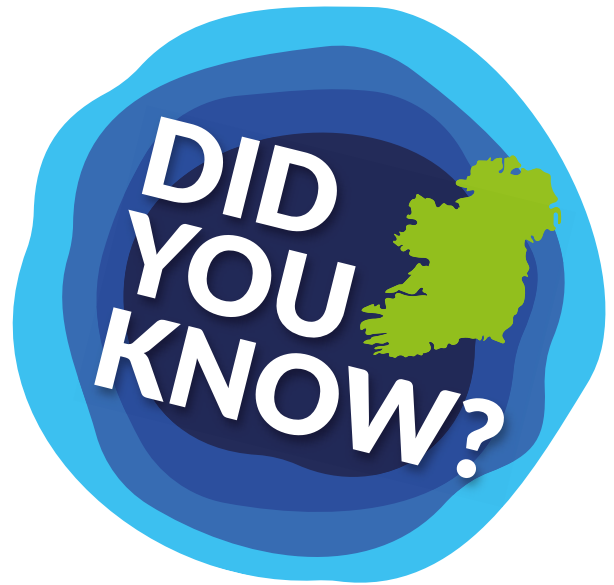
There are more things happening than ever in Ireland's seas, so we need to make sure that all users can work together to get the best use of our coasts and oceans, while protecting our marine environment. Ireland is lucky enough to have a huge marine area – 7 times the size of our land area! In total, Ireland's maritime area is almost 500,000km² (490,000km²). To put it in perspective, Ireland's smallest county, Louth, is just 820 km²!

Our seas give us so much: fishing and aquaculture provide us with food, beautiful beaches are places to play and enjoy, we can get energy from the wind and, hopefully in future, from waves and tides. Goods like cars and TVs arrive into our ports and harbours for delivery all over the country, walkers enjoy amazing views from our shorelines that make them happy, and lighthouses and lifeguards help to keep us safe.

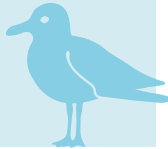
The Marine Planning Framework looks at all of the things happening in our seas, including the following:

- Aquaculture
- Defence and Security
- Economic – Thriving Maritime Economy
- Energy – Emerging Technologies
- Energy – Natural Gas Storage
- Energy – Offshore Renewable
- Energy – Petroleum
- Energy – Transmission
- Environmental – Ocean Health
- Fisheries
- Mineral Exploration and Mining
- Ports, Harbours and Shipping
- Safety at Sea
- Seaweed Harvesting
- Social – Engagement with the Sea
- Sport and Recreation
- Telecommunications
- Tourism
- Waste Water Treatment and Disposal

IRELAND'S MARINE WEALTH



Our coastline is home to over **24 species** of resident and visiting seabirds. There are more than **500,000** pairs of seabirds around the island of Ireland.



12,105 vessels arrived in Irish ports in 2023.



Ireland's marine territory contains an **extraordinary amount and variety of plants and animals.**

There are almost **600 species of seaweed** around Ireland.



More than **7,300 animal species** have been recorded in the seas around Ireland, including 25 species of cetaceans (whales and dolphins!) including common dolphins, bottlenose dolphins and harbour porpoises.



40% of Ireland's population lives within five kilometres of the coast.



Over **1.1 million passengers** travelled to Ireland by ferry in 2023.



Irish ports are critical infrastructure for our international trade, with **over 90% of our international trade** moving by sea.

Ireland's seafood economy is worth **€1.3 billion.**



Lots more interesting Marine Planning information can be found at www.marineplan.ie



An Taisce



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications