## FACTSHEET FOR SCHOOLS



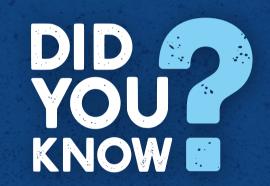


**C** An Taisce

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's Marine Wealth**



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

16,874 people were directly or indirectly employed in the seafood industry in Ireland in 2024.

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.

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.

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



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

Ireland's seafood economy was worth €1.24 billion in 2024.



Nearly **1.1 million**passengers travelled to Ireland by ferry in 2024.

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



Ireland's maritime area is 490,000km²



11,958 vessels arrived in Irish ports in 2024.

