

# FACTSHEET FOR SCHOOLS



An Roinn Aeráide,  
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil  
Department of Climate,  
Energy and the Environment

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

### DID YOU KNOW?

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.



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

Ireland's maritime area is **490,000km<sup>2</sup>**



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



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



**11,958 vessels** arrived in Irish ports in 2024.



Lots more interesting Marine Planning information can be found at [www.marineplan.ie](http://www.marineplan.ie)