



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Project Marine Newsletter

Marine Planning, Policy & Legislation (MPPL) Section

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## Contents

Introduction .....	1
MPPL Departures/Appointments .....	2
Chairman of Seafood/ORE Working Group Appointment.....	3
Inaugural Seafood/ORE Working Group Meeting .....	4
EMD Conference, Ravenna Italy .....	5
“Navigating to 2050” .....	6
Development of O.R.E. Technologies in Ireland .....	7
“Delivering a Sustainable Ocean Economy”, Wexford.....	10
Irish Coast Guard mark 200 years .....	12
Regional News: .....	13
New Port of Waterford CEO Appointment.....	16
The Age of AQUAMIS .....	17
Saving Ireland’s Seagrass.....	19
Update on Marine Protected Areas .....	19
A View from Europe - Maritime Affairs Attaché, Eoin Leahy .....	22
“The MSP Challenge” .....	24
Photos from the 2022 Ploughing Championships .....	26
Coastwatch Citizen Science .....	27
A word from MARA.....	29
Explorers Education Programme .....	30
RV Tom Crean .....	31
Upcoming Events: .....	32
Concluding note from MPPL .....	33

## Introduction

The Marine Planning Policy and Legislation (MPPL) unit welcomes readers to our second newsletter of 2022. We would especially like to thank those readers of our inaugural edition who provided us with feedback and suggestions as to topics we should cover in future editions. We will make an effort to include all suitable suggestions over the course of the next issues, and we welcome further feedback at [MSP@Housing.Gov.ie](mailto:MSP@Housing.Gov.ie).

In **Part 1** of this edition, we say a farewell to our now former colleague, Conor McCabe, and welcome his replacement, Damian Allen. We also introduce the Chair of the recently established Seafood-Offshore Renewable Energy working group, Captain Robert McCabe, and take a look at a brief report of the inception meeting of the group. We also look at an overview of the recent European Maritime Day conference held in Ravenna, Italy, and conclude Part 1 with an invite to attend the upcoming “Navigating to 2050” conference which will be hosted by the Commissioners of Irish Lights in Dublin Castle during November.

In a packed **Part 2**, MaREI (the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine research and innovation co-ordinated by the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) at University College Cork) bring us the very latest news on the continuing development of emerging ORE technology in Ireland, after which we outline MPPL’s own ‘Delivering a Sustainable Ocean Economy’ marine planning event which was held in Wexford over the summer. Also, the Irish Coastguard mark their notable achievement of 200 years dedicated to lifesaving service, and we conclude Part 2 with some Regional maritime news, where we outline local maritime developments funded by a variety of Government Departments.

**Part 3** begins with news from our colleagues in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, who outline their recent development of AQUAMIS – this is a Web-based Aquaculture Application and Monitoring System on a single portal. A young boy proves age is no barrier to being ‘marine aware’ as he demonstrates his project in conserving Seagrass in his local area, and we also provide an update on the progression of Marine Protected Area legislation. The Marine Institute outline the ongoing Public Consultation on the Draft Seafood Development Programme 2021-27, while Maritime Attaché Eoin Leahy returns with his ‘View From Europe’ column, providing us with updates on EU Marine policy. A packed issue continues with a look at a recent Marine Spatial Planning event attended by the MPPL team in Belfast, in addition to an article from Coastwatch’s Karin Dubsky on Citizen Science.

We (finally!!) conclude the issue with an update on the progress of establishing the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) and the Marine Institute announce the arrival of Ireland’s new research vessel, the RV Tom Crean.

## Part 1 – Marine Planning Section Departures/Appointments

### Farewell Conor!

**Conor McCabe**, who has headed the Marine Planning Policy and Legislation (MPPL) unit for the past three years, has moved to pastures new in recent weeks, taking up a new position as head of the International and Offshore Energy Unit in the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

The MPPL team would like to thank Conor for his leadership during that time, and wish him every success in his new role.



Conor McCabe

### Welcome Damian!

**Damian Allen** has recently replaced Conor as head of the MPPL unit.

Damian joined the Department in 2008 where he worked in the Water Quality unit up to and including the EU Presidency in 2013. Since then he's worked in the Housing and Corporate Divisions before taking up this new role in Marine Planning.

Similarly, the MPPL team wish Damian all the very best and we look forward to working with him for the future.



Damian Allen



**Email us at: [msp@housing.gov.ie](mailto:msp@housing.gov.ie)**





Captain Robert McCabe

## Chairperson appointed for Seafood/Offshore Renewable Energy Working Group

Earlier this year, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, appointed Captain **Robert McCabe** as chairperson of the Seafood/Offshore Renewable Energy Working Group for a two-year period.

The Seafood / ORE Working Group has been established to facilitate discussion on matters arising from the interaction of the seafood and offshore renewable energy industries, to promote and share best practice, as well as to encourage liaison with other sectors in the marine environment.

Captain McCabe is a qualified Master Mariner (Trinity College) who has extensive maritime experience in a variety of senior roles throughout a 35 year career with the Commissioners of Irish Lights. Other roles included serving as the First Master of the ILV Granuaile, before later being appointed to a variety of management positions within the Commissioners of Irish Lights, including Assistant Inspector, Deputy Head of Marine, Head of Marine, and Director of Operations and Navigation. He has also served as the President of the Irish Chamber of Shipping and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICoS), and is a current member of a number of marine bodies, including the Nautical Institute and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

Captain McCabe brings extensive knowledge of both the Seafood and ORE sectors, having previously worked with both in relation to maritime navigational safety. His work enabled him to gain an extensive knowledge of the Irish coast and maritime activity across all sectors, and he brings a record of effective delivery of offshore engineering and navigation safety projects, which will prove valuable within the setting of this group.

Minister O'Brien said: "I'm delighted to appoint someone of Robert's vast experience and capability to this position. Throughout his career, Robert has demonstrated the type of qualities that this group requires, working with diverse marine groups to achieve win-win solutions by showing leadership, drive and determination to succeed. I also note that his specific expertise in safety at sea will prove extremely beneficial to the work of the group as the group progresses.

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, stated: "I welcome the appointment of the Chairperson and look forward to enhanced constructive engagement between both sectors. I recognise the marine space is a shared resource and the seafood sector delivers significant economic benefits, while sustaining many coastal communities.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Charlie McConalogue, stated: "I am pleased that we now have a Chairperson appointed and can get this initiative up and running. The challenge for all of us involved in the marine space is to find a pathway that recognises the value that our ocean territory has for our economy and that balances how we harness its natural resources.

The Seafood/ORE Working group aim to meet on a monthly basis.

(See following page for article on inaugural meeting)

## First Meeting of Seafood/Offshore Renewable Energy Working Group

The inception meeting of the Seafood/ORE working group under the chairmanship of Captain Robert McCabe took place on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> in the Custom House, Dublin. The meeting was attended by 17 seafood representative organisations, 4 ORE representative organisations, 7 Government marine-related agencies, in addition to representation from the 3 Government Departments involved in this group, DHLGH, DECC and DAFM.

After a welcome and introduction by the Chair, attendees introduced their respective organisations and their interest in the activity of the Working Group. The Chair then outlined the Terms of Reference and the main objectives for the group, which initially is to establish a communications protocol between the 2 industries.

Ms. Martina Hennessy, Principal Officer for Offshore Energy – Environment and Consenting Division of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications provided the group with an overview of the consenting process. All ORE operators will be required to obtain a Maritime Area of Consent (MAC) from the Minister of Environment, Climate and Communications in advance of applying for planning permissions. The MAC is, in effect, a due diligence on the developer, ensuring that the developer has the necessary financial and technical resources to bring a proposal to fruition. The granting of a MAC serves as a gateway to the marine planning system, and ORE developers cannot apply for planning permission without firstly obtaining a MAC. Further details of the Maritime Area of Consent process are available [here](#).

The Chair tasked group members with drafting a communications guidance document for further discussion and refinement over the next few months, and it was agreed that Working Group members would provide their suggested content for the document to the Chair by the next meeting, which will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The Chair undertook to collate the proposed content and present a ‘straw man’ version to the September meeting of the Working Group for further discussion and negotiation.

### **Other issues discussed included:**

- Stakeholder fatigue from multiple surveys and interviews.
- Lack of clarity of what activities can co-exist within an ORE development.
- Future opportunities for synergy between the various sectors.

As the Chair has set a monthly frequency for future meetings with the group, further updates to the progress of the group will be featured in future editions of this newsletter.

## European Maritime Day Conference, Ravenna, Italy

Personnel from Marine Institute Ireland and the Marine Planning, Policy & Legislation Section travelled to Ravenna, Italy for the European Maritime Day Conference earlier this year.

The two day seminar was a huge success with “Team Ireland” greatly represented as officials from Cork City Council and Ireland’s Maritime Affairs Attaché, Eoin Leahy were also in attendance.

Among the highlights were presentations from Dr Antonia Leroy, Head of Ocean Policy at WWF European Policy Office who gave a talk on Maritime Spatial Planning and Stakeholder’s engagement outlining various new projects initiated from various countries as they continue to move forward with marine policy.

Dr. Andrej Abramic, PLASMAR+ project co-ordinator and co-chair Data4MSP technical expert group also spoke and highlighted a unique comic book which could help with in the communication process during stakeholder engagement.

Kate Larkin of the EMODnet Secretariat and Alessandra Giorgetti, EMODnet Chemistry Co-ordinator showed how they have created a data holding system relating to marine litter. Elisabetta Balzi, Head of the Healthy Seas and Oceans Unit with the European Commission presented on the future for the marine and maritime Research and Industry policy, while Louise Valestrand from the Norwegian Institute for Water Research presented on ocean literary consoles showing environmental data collected from various ships.

Tom Woolley, Marine Planning Advisor with the Marine Planning, Policy & Legislation Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage also highlighted Ireland’s approach to the stakeholder engagement process.

**Below is a photo of Tom Woolley speaking at the conference:**



## “Navigating to 2050” – Commissioners of Irish Lights



Commissioners of  
**IRISH LIGHTS**

Navigation  
and Maritime  
Services

At a time of great challenge and great opportunity, Irish Lights is delighted to host a major two-day international conference in Dublin Castle on the 15th and 16th November

2022 entitled “Navigating to 2050 – a safe and sustainable maritime future”.

Decarbonisation, alternative fuel types, autonomous systems and ships, digitalization of navigation and related technology, offshore renewable energy development and maritime spatial planning are key elements of change in the maritime sector. All involved in shipping, ports, maritime infrastructure, safety, regulation, and environmental protection will need to work together in a holistic manner to achieve a safe and sustainable route to 2050.

Irish Lights is a 24/7 maritime safety organisation, operating around the coast of Ireland, contributing to safe navigation at sea by ensuring compliance with the SOLAS, Safety of Life at Sea Convention and adherence to international marine aids to navigation standards. As a key stakeholder in the maritime sector, Irish Lights is acutely conscious that a safe and sustainable maritime future can only be delivered by close interconnectivity and collaboration between all the players and dimensions within the sector. That is why we have a particular interest in bringing together a diverse range of key national and international leaders to facilitate this important discussion.

**Commissioners of Irish Lights invite you to participate in their conference in Dublin Castle (virtual attendance also available) for what we all hope will be a very stimulating and engaging two days. Registration is now open by accessing the main conference website which also provides further information on the conference and its speakers.**

Register via: <https://bit.ly/3P9ZQU5>

# Navigating to 2050

A safe and sustainable maritime future

**Dublin Castle**  
**15th & 16th Nov 2022**

**Save the Date**  
**Hybrid Conference**



Commissioners of  
**IRISH LIGHTS**

Navigation  
and Maritime  
Services



# The Development of O.R.E. Technologies in Ireland

By Jimmy Murphy, Lir NOFT, MaREI and Ian Power, Lir NOFT, MaREI

The testing and development of offshore renewable energy (ORE) technologies has been ongoing in Ireland for more than 40 years but as yet we have not seen offshore deployments in Ireland's marine space. The reasons for this primarily relate to a lack of technology readiness, high costs and planning constraints. Initially development in Ireland

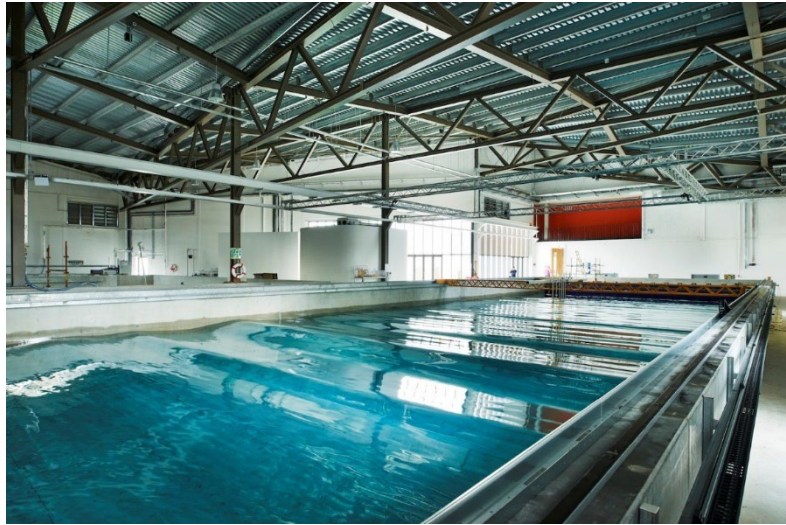


Figure 1: Main Tank Hall Lir NOTF

focused on wave and tidal energy technologies but in recent years it has been offshore wind and particularly floating wind platforms that have received most attention. The plans for offshore wind development in Ireland are well known, with a number of developers currently planning for windfarms to be operating by 2030. Thus, because offshore wind is reaching full commercialisation this article will concentrate on technologies that are still emerging and in particular Irish developers who are being supported through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) ORE Industry APcess programme at the Lir National Ocean Test Facility (Lir NOTF).

The Lir NOTF, located in University College Cork and part of MaREI, the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine is a purpose built laboratory for testing marine technologies at scale prior to open sea deployments. Its development along with the Galway Bay Marine and Renewable Energy Test Site and the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site, was part of a national strategy designed to support marine technologies from concept stage to first full scale prototype deployments.

(See Figure 2 on following page)

The SEAI ORE Industry Access Programme has been operational since 2021 and offers Irish developers a range of facilities to test floating wind, wave, tidal, solar, electrical, and grid integration technologies. In its first year, it was run as a pilot to establish if a viable pipeline of early-stage technology developers existed in Ireland. Through this process, it was established that at least 33 Irish companies were active in the development of ORE technologies.

(See Figure 3 below left)

The call was oversubscribed in both 2021 and 2022.



Figure 2: The Irish pathway to commercialisation for ORE

Wave energy is the largest group appearing in the application profile and this points to the challenges that still remain for this sector in developing technologies that can operate and survive in extreme Atlantic environments. Tidal energy applications are also significant and show that even though Ireland does not have a large tidal resource, developers see international opportunities. It is also interesting that floating solar technologies for exposed offshore conditions are now appearing in the

ORE development landscape and like wind, could represent an easier resource to harness than wave and tidal energy.

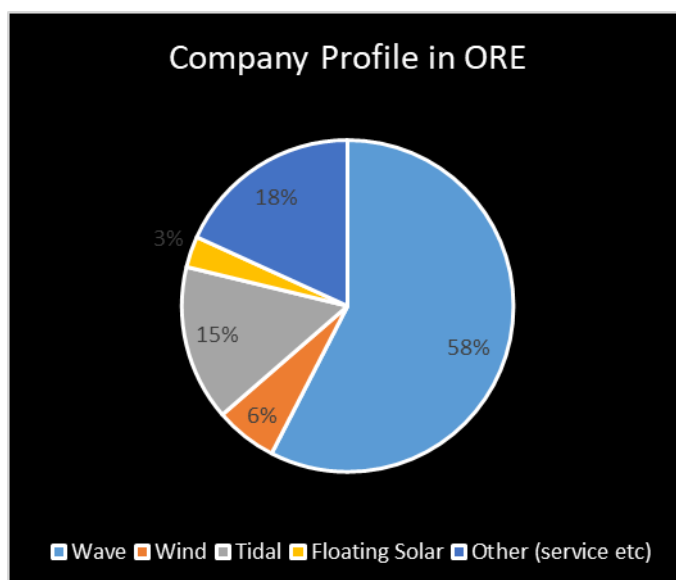


Figure 3: The sectors of Irish ORE technology developers

An example of a company supported in this programme is OceanEnergy (OE). They have developed a wave energy convertor device to prototype scale (See **Figure 4 on following page**) which is now being prepared for deployment in Hawaii. Even though OE are at this advanced stage of development they still required laboratory testing to optimise control of turbine operation and examine new mooring arrangements.



Figure 1: OE device during its construction in Portland, USA

In some cases developers focus on solving a particular challenge and develop new components rather than complete ORE technologies. For instance, [Tfi Marine](#) and [Dublin Offshore](#) have tested new components and materials related to reducing and mitigating against extreme loadings on mooring systems.

The SEAI Industry Access Programme has shown that Irish ORE technology developers are still very active but also that initiatives like this are needed to support their progress to commercialisation.

Having a substantial number of Irish innovators involved in the programme is a positive signal and indicates that indigenously developed technologies or components may yet impact this market.

Laboratory testing at the Lir NOTF provides the opportunity to better understand the behaviour and performance of technologies and enables decisions regarding whether then they should progress to open sea test sites (Galway Bay and AMETS).

See [www.lir-notf.com](http://www.lir-notf.com) for further information about the SEAI Lir-NOTF ORE Industry Access Programme.



## “Delivering a Sustainable Ocean Economy”

Marine Planning Conference, Wexford, June 2022



Principal Officer Conor McCabe explains the journey to the National Marine Planning Framework on the opening morning of the conference

The Marine Planning Policy & Legislation section of the Department organised a bilateral seminar between Ireland and Norway during the summer. The theme of the event was **“Delivering a Sustainable Ocean Economy: Managing the introduction of Offshore Wind,”** and included a delegation of mainly public servants from Norway working in Marine Planning, Offshore energy and in local authorities, who were led by the Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland, Ms. Marie Skåre. From an Irish perspective, Minister Peter Burke led a delegation which brought together State actors from right across Government as well as various stakeholders representing environmental NGOs, Fisheries groups, academia as well as the energy industry.



Karin Dubskey of Coastwatch Europe

Taking place over two intensive days (the first of which was held on World Ocean Day – June 8<sup>th</sup>) the task of managing 30 speakers fell into the capable hands of three chairpersons, namely Philip Nugent, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; Laura Burke, Director General, Environmental Protection Agency and Per Wilhelm Schive, Director of the Norwegian Ministry, Department of Climate and Environment.





Per Wilhelm Schive,  
Director of the Norwegian  
Ministry, Department of  
Climate and Environment

A wide variety of topics were covered ranging from international and domestic policy on marine planning and offshore renewables; areas of potential conflict and resolution of same between marine users; concerns and opportunities for environmental groups; skills required over the next three decades to deliver a sustainable offshore energy industry; the infrastructure required to support the introduction of ORE into our respective Maritime Areas and the deployment of new initiatives around data to inform our decision making in a transparent and accessible manner.

The goal of the conference was to bring together a broad range of stakeholders from both Norway and Ireland to discuss the various opportunities and challenges they face with a special focus on Offshore Renewable Energy and to share stories and establish networks and communities of practice.



Norwegian Ambassador to  
Ireland, Her Excellency, Ms.  
Marie Skåre

Ensuring that we showed our visitors from both Ireland and Norway the best of South-East hospitality, the first day concluded with a walking tour in the evening sunshine of Wexford town's historic landmarks with local historian Monica Crofton before retiring for an evening meal in local gourmet hot-spot, 10 West Bistro.



Nils Roar Hareide, from Runde Environmental Centre & Norwegian Ocean Institute spoke via satellite to the Wexford Conference

Almost 100 people attended over the two days and Ireland strongly showcased its recent policy successes and ambition in the marine planning and offshore energy space. While it is apparent that we still have some catching up to do with our Norwegian colleagues in terms of offshore development, we can state that judging by the feedback received, the Seminar was a success, and one which we hope to run on an annual basis with different countries in the future.

## Irish Coast Guard mark 200 years of lifesaving service



Minister of Transport Eamon Ryan TD and Minister of State Hildegard Naughton TD at the 200 year celebration of the Irish Coast Guard at Greenore Coast Guard Station, County Louth.

Early September saw The Irish Coast Guard commemorate 200 years of dedicated lifesaving service. Tracing its roots to 1822, the milestone was marked at an event attended by Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD and Minister of State with specific

responsibility for the Irish Coast Guard, Hildegard Naughton TD, at Greenore Coast Guard Station, County Louth.

Staff and volunteers from 44 Coast Guard units across Ireland provide a national maritime search and rescue service and a maritime casualty and pollution response service. Together, they respond to almost 3,000 call outs and save on average 400 lives a year. Of the call outs, approximately half are maritime incidents, a quarter are inland search and rescue and another quarter involve assisting the National Ambulance Service.

Modern volunteer Coast Guard units provide a combination of Rescue Boat, Cliff Rescue, Shoreline Search Capabilities, and Emergency Community Support in conjunction with the other emergency services. Development in the use of Small Unmanned Aircraft systems (Drones) provide Coast Guard units with an enhanced search capability while Coast Guard helicopters provide 24/7 services out of four bases (Dublin, Waterford, Shannon, Sligo).

The Coast Guard's role is to provide maritime search and rescue, maritime casualty, and pollution response service. The Coast Guard is a Division within the Irish Maritime Directorate (IMD) of the Department of Transport.





## Regional News:

Many other Government departments and organisations work in tandem with our local authorities in improving our Maritime/Coastal areas.

The following three articles are just some examples of the excellent work they have carried out. We here in the Marine, Planning, Policy & Legislation Section are happy to further promote the work of all these organisations and wish all parties concerned every continued success.

## Donegal:

### New Arranmore Island Shorefront Amenity Development

This summer saw Donegal County Council and Comharchumann Oileán Árann Mhór CTR host the official opening of the Forbairt Taitneamhachtaí Cois Cladaigh Oileán Árann Mhór (**Arranmore Island Shorefront Amenity Development**) with Minister for Rural & Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD.



Pic courtesy of [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

The project is a part of the wider €4.1m 'Harbour to Island' rural regeneration project and is the result of a partnership between Donegal County Council and Comharchumann Oileán Árann Mhór. It is co-funded by **Donegal County Council and the Department of Rural & Community Development** under the **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund**, which is a flagship element of Project Ireland 2040.

The project is located in a striking natural coastal environment in the townland of Leabgarrow on the Island.

At the official opening event, which occurred on 22nd July last, Minister Humphreys said:

"This fantastic new amenity will greatly improve the quality of life for the residents of the community on Arranmore. It will do so much for our young people – providing a performance venue and play area – making the beautiful island an even better place to grow up in, and it will do so much too in terms of supporting and driving new businesses in the likes of the tourism, hospitality, leisure sectors."

**Source: [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie) and Department of Rural & Community Development**

## Wicklow:

### Bray Seafront Plaza Officially Opened

The new Strand Road Plaza in Bray was officially opened earlier this year and the completion of this high-quality public plaza has greatly enhanced the public space on one of Ireland's most famous seafronts.

The scheme includes:

- Widened pedestrian areas using new paving materials
- A shared space linking to the existing cycle route on both sides of the scheme
- New seating, trees, planters, public lighting.
- The road carriageway has been raised and reduced in width, to control vehicle speeds and shorten crossing distances for pedestrians.



Pic courtesy of [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie)

Mr Brian Gleeson, Chief Executive, **Wicklow County Council**, said:

“Strand Road Plaza’s development is one of many **National Transport Authority** (NTA) projects in progress and its completion and opening, is a clear demonstration of Wicklow County Council’s commitment to sustainable transport and active travel measures for the future in conjunction with the NTA.”

Cathaoirleach with **Bray Municipal District** at the time, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, stated:

“This completed project has significantly enhanced the area and it has given people the opportunity to sit and relax; allows people to move about easily and comfortably between amenities, cafes, and businesses on both sides of Strand Road Plaza; provides a coherent connection between the footpaths and cycle tracks on either side and provides for outdoor café/restaurant seating and hosting public events.

Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer, **National Transport Authority**, stated:

“The Strand Road Plaza in Bray has presented a great opportunity for the NTA to work with Wicklow County Council on a project that both improves active travel access through the area and provides a link between two previously unconnected cycle facilities. This project is just one of several hundred, not just in the Greater Dublin Area, but across the country, being funded by NTA as part of the overall plan to make cycling and walking easier and safer for more people.”

**Wicklow County Council would like to thank the National Transport Authority for providing funding to facilitate this project.**

Source: [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) and National Transport Authority



## Clare:

### Loop Head Lighthouse Experience re-opens

Loop Head Lighthouse Visitor Experience swung open its doors to visitors this summer for the first time since 2019 following a significant upgrade of the historic and popular West Clare visitor attraction. Located at the mouth of the Shannon Estuary with its origins dating back to the 1670s, the lighthouse first opened to visitors in 2011 and has since



Pic courtesy of [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie)

become one of West Clare's most popular attractions. The lighthouse also is one of the Great Lighthouses of Ireland and is one of two Signature Discovery Points in County Clare along the route of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Among those invited to July's official opening was Kitty Garvey, whose late husband Brendan was the Loop Head's final lightkeeper before the lighthouse was automated by the Commissioner of Irish Lights (CIL) in 1991.

A series of upgrade and renovation works have been completed at the Loop Head Visitor Experience as a result of funding received from the **Department of Rural and Community Development** through **the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)** with match funding from **Clare County Council**.

Minister for Rural and Community Development and Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, stated:

"I am delighted that Loop Head Lighthouse is once again open to visitors, restoring an iconic stopping point on the Wild Atlantic Way, steeped in local and maritime history. The funding from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, which has made the ongoing upgrades to Loop Head possible, continues to be an engine of economic and social progress for rural communities around the country."

Speaking at the launch, **Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council**, Councillor Tony O'Brien, said:

"The investment by the local authority, local elected members, the Department of Rural and Community Development, the local community, Loop Head Tourism, the Commissioner of Irish Lights and Fáilte Ireland in developing and promoting this visitor attraction will undoubtedly bear fruit for the surrounding communities of the peninsula in terms of profile and the local economy."

A planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála to further enhance the visitor management facilities. Plans include the provision of a Loop Head looped trail, waste-water treatment upgrade and new parking facilities. The future plan also includes the construction of a single storey building extension, providing additional and enhanced new visitor facilities such as a reception, café and seating area, toilets, and a covered walkway leading to the walking trail network.

**Source: [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie) and Department of Rural & Community Development**



David Sinnott

## In Other News . . . Wexford native set to return to the South East to take up Port of Waterford CEO role

Wexford man David Sinnott has now taken up the role of CEO for the Port of Waterford, taking over from outgoing Chief Executive, Frank Ronan.

Frank has completed his 7 year term of office and from October 1st, David will come on board having worked in Germany for the last ten years with Carl Zeiss Vision International GmbH, where he held the role of Vice President of Product Management.

Prior to David's time in Product Management at Carl Zeiss Vision he served in several positions for the company in supply chain management.

Starting out in materials management at their former manufacturing facility in Wexford, David then spent time as Director of European Supply Chain, before taking a role as Director of Business Integration. David is from Wexford town and is a former president of Wexford Chamber of Commerce serving two years: 2002 and 2003.

Commenting on the appointment, Chairman of the Port of Waterford Des Whelan says,

"The board of directors and I look forward to welcoming David Sinnott to Port of Waterford. The board are confident that David will continue to build on the progress of the port in recent years. David has the relevant experience and skills to provide strong stewardship at the Port and we wish him every success.

The board and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Frank Ronan for his excellent work at Port of Waterford over the last seven years and we wish him the very best for the future."

Incidentally, Des will also be completing his term of office as Chairman of Port of Waterford.

We here at Marine Planning wish all concerned continued success for the future.

Source: [www.portofwaterford.com](http://www.portofwaterford.com)



Pictured left are outgoing CEO Frank Ronan, Minister of State at the Department of Transport Hildegard Naughton TD, Incoming CEO David Sinnott and Outgoing Chairman Des Whelan in early September during the Minister's visit to the Port of Waterford.

## This is the Dawning of the Age of “AQUAMIS”

By Raphael Crowley, Chartered Engineer, Marine Engineering Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

The development of a ‘Web-based Aquaculture Application and Monitoring System’ on a single portal which would be integrated with scientific and technical data sets from both the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Marine Institute (MI) databases was one of the recommendations from the Independent Aquaculture Licensing Review. This recommendation is progressing in the form of the department’s AQUAMIS (Aquaculture Management Information System) which is being progressed in two phases.

Earlier this year, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Charlie McConalogue, announced the launch of Phase I of the new state of the art Aquaculture Information Management System (AQUAMIS).

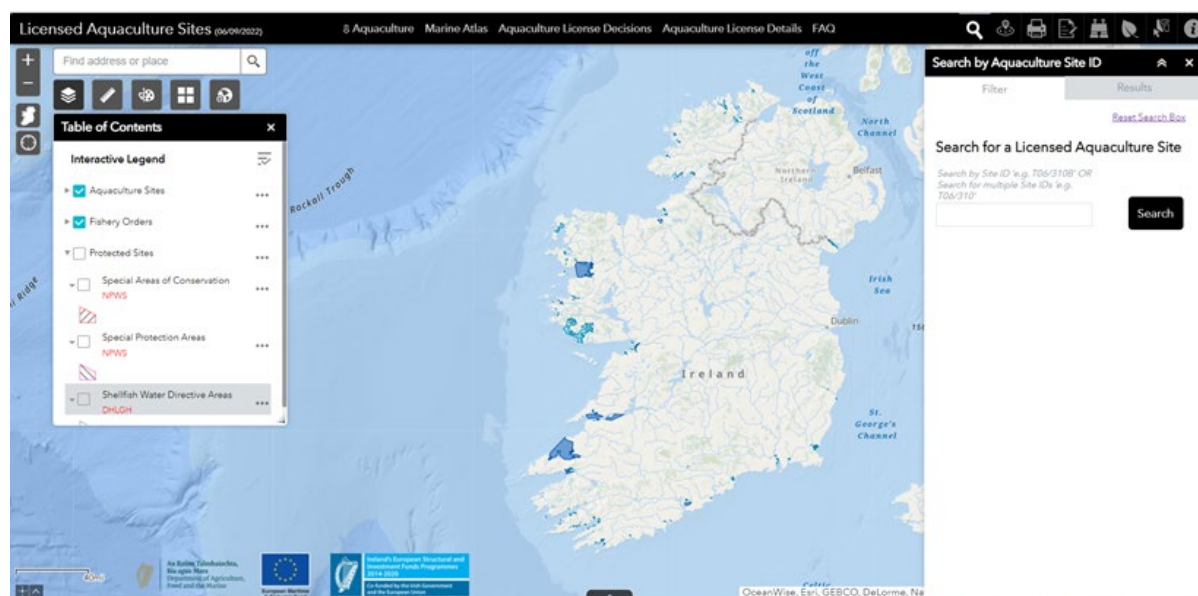
Phase I of the AQUAMIS project involves the development of the public online aquaculture viewing portal and will also allow for the digital processing of aquaculture licence applications by department staff via data entry screens within an internal web portal.

The online viewer allows members of the public to freely access, view and search licensed aquaculture sites and mapping information through a public portal developed in collaboration with the Marine Institute.

The viewer can be accessed at <https://dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/>

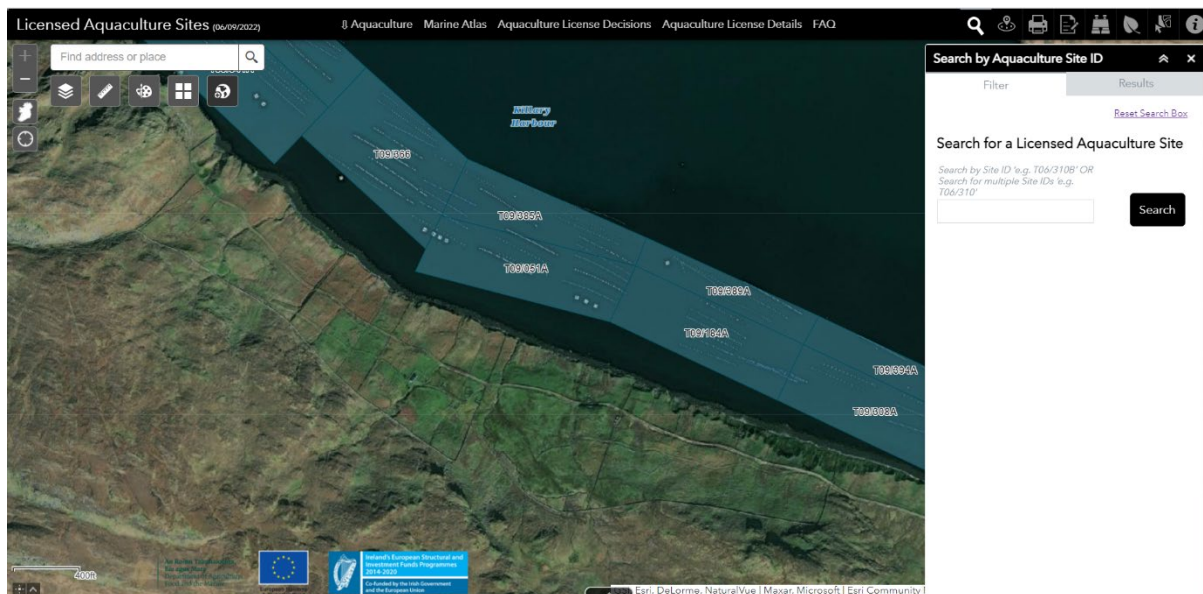
Phase II of the project is currently being developed to become a fully online system with all application and supporting data being submitted electronically by the applicant. AQUAMIS will also be integrated into other government systems such as the National Marine Planning Framework online portal and the wider marine spatial planning system.

Some of the functionality of Phase I is highlighted in the following screenshots.

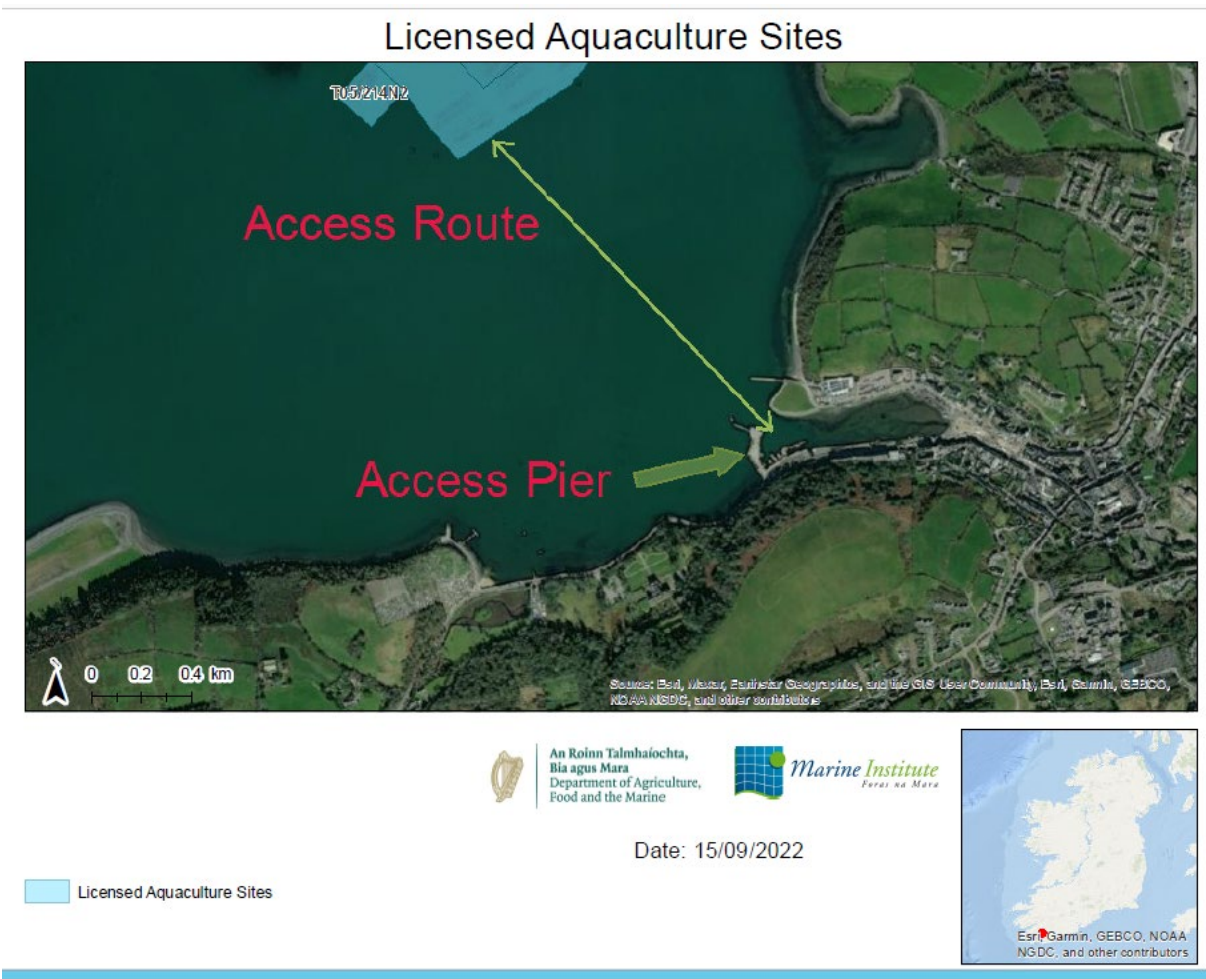




Users can tailor the view to suit their needs, turning on/off layers, change background maps, query distance and area or search for species, operator or location.



Satellite imagery can be turned on to see aquaculture structures.





Users have the ability to create own maps or drawings for use in reports. The data is also available to download for use in other GIS systems.

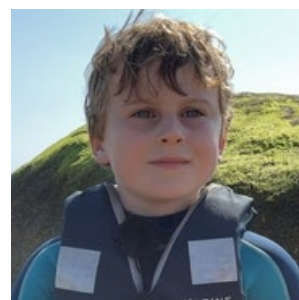
Ultimately, the delivery of AQUAMIS will be a one stop shop for the aquaculture licence application process, enhance the sharing of information and significantly reduce administrative burden. The public viewer is the first step in this process to improve efficiency, provide easy access to information for all stakeholders and additional transparency for the public. It is intended to build on the current functionality and data available in subsequent phases of development.

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## Young boy's bid to save Ireland's Seagrass

We recommend you have a look at the link below where a fearless and enterprising young Wexford boy called Shem Berry undertakes a mammoth task in conserving Seagrass in his local area.

Shem's heart-warming accomplishments have even attracted the attention of RTE as you can see from this clip on the broadcasters' YouTube channel [here](#):



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## Update on Marine Protected Area Legislation

In progressing commitments in the Programme for Government to expand Ireland's network of marine protected areas (MPAs), on 27 July 2022 the Government approved the development of a General Scheme of a Bill to provide for MPAs. The Department is working to prepare the heads of that Bill and will continue to develop the General Scheme for the rest of 2022. Work on drafting and enacting the primary MPA legislation is expected to follow thereafter.

The proposed legislation is intended to work in parallel with the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021) and the suite of existing legal biodiversity protection measures, such as provisions under the Wildlife Acts, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, and the EU Common Fisheries Policy for example. This is in order to effectively balance all conservation requirements and the long-term, sustainable use of Ireland's valuable and diverse marine environment.

## Public Consultation on the Draft Seafood Development Programme 2021-27 – Ireland's programme under the EMFAF – Marine Institute



*Marine Institute*  
*Foras na Mara*

The Department of Food, Agriculture and Marine (DAFM), recently published the draft Seafood Development Programme 2021-27 for public

consultation. This is Ireland's programme under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). It supports the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance. It runs up until 2027 succeeds the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020 which saw €240 million invested in Ireland's Seafood and Marine sector. Potential funding of up to €258.4 million is available for the new programme including a €134 million EU contribution and a Government contribution of €116 million, representing an increase in funding over the previous EMFF Programme 2014-2020.

The draft Operational Programme was published outlining a strategy for how the objectives of the EMFAF can be achieved in an Irish context. The programme has been developed over the past two years, including an initial public consultation process, bilateral discussions with key stakeholders, desk review of relevant national and EU policies, debates with stakeholders, and discussions with the Commission. It was also developed in the context of the Report of the Seafood Taskforce – Navigating Change (October 2021), which made recommendations for supporting the seafood sector to overcome the impacts of Brexit and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and how funds from both the Brexit Adjustment Reserve and EMFAF can be best leveraged to implement these recommendations.

The Programme details the vision and key missions to be achieved by the implementation of the programme. It also demonstrates how the strategic objectives of the EMFAF fund (specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/1139) will be employed in fulfilling the Programme. Further information can be found here: [Click Here](#).

### **Marine Institute Summer 2022 Bursary Programme completed**

Thirteen undergraduate students, participated in this year's Marine Institute's Summer Bursary programme. They showcased their projects at a poster presentation day, held at the Marine Institute's Headquarters in Oranmore.

The Bursars presented the outputs of their projects to the staff of the Marine Institute and answered questions about their project work. This year's bursaries comprised a broad range of projects that are linked to the work undertaken by the Marine Institute. The project areas include Fisheries, Molecular Chemistry, Aquaculture, Marine Infrastructure Asset Management, Oceanographic analysis, Ocean Economics, Research Office, Human resources, Library and Marine Communications.

The Marine Institute Summer Bursary Programme has been running since the 1960s. A highly sought-after work experience programme in marine science, the programme continues to offer a promising gateway for students into the expanding world of marine science and research in Ireland.

The programme is aimed at undergraduates who have completed two years of study in a relevant discipline and is advertised on [www.marine.ie](http://www.marine.ie) in February each year. The scheme will continue in 2023. **The full news item can be accessed here: [Click Here](#).**

## More Photos from our Conference in Wexford:



**June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
**Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford**  
**"Delivering a Sustainable Ocean Economy"**



## A View from Europe - Maritime Affairs Attaché, Eoin Leahy



Eoin Leahy  
Maritime Affairs Attaché

Following on from last quarter's newsletter - here is a whistle stop tour of what has been crossing my desk here in Brussels as Maritime Affairs Attaché.

As spring came to an end and summer started to appear in Brussels, so did event season. May saw beautiful Ravenna in Italy bringing the European Maritime Community together for the first in-person European Maritime Day since 2019. Ireland was well represented with colleagues from the Marine Planning team attending and Tom Wooley invited as a speaker. The Marine Institute also had a presence, as well as Susan Steele, the head of EFCA involved in several talks and workshops.

One of my main focuses for the event was to lobby for Ireland to host EMD in a future edition. The Commission invited applications for the next term from 2025-29 and having not been able to host in 2020, Cork City Council sent a delegation to Ravenna. We were able to arrange a bi-lateral with the Commission to share the extent of our ambition as well as engaging with other Member States to support our bid. I submitted Ireland's bid to host EMD in June and have been lobbying hard behind the scenes to support our pitch. Fingers crossed for good news in October!

Early June included a very engaging visit to Wexford for the Ireland /Norway Offshore wind workshop hosted by D/HLGH. As well as having a very interesting agenda, it was great to get to meet lots of my new colleagues in person finally.

Late June brought about the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon where D/HLGH had a strong presence from both the Marine Environment team and the Marine Planning Team. Colleagues from DFA HQ and the Irish Embassy in Lisbon were on the ground also to support Minister Noonan's attendance. Work on the joint declaration was coordinated through my office in Brussels and it led to quite a busy build up to the conference due to challenging time lines, a busy schedule at the UN in New York and pulling together the views of 27 member states.

One of the highlights of that busy week was Ireland's side event, hosted by Ambassador Victory on the visiting Irish Naval Ship the George Bernard Shaw where we celebrated 80 years of Ireland's diplomatic presence in Lisbon and where MI and DFA launched the "Our Shared Ocean" program. Minister Coveney also delivered a video message at the EU Mission Ocean charter launch where Ireland began discussions with EU Commission colleagues on a potential high level event on the Atlantic Arctic element in Ireland in November.

Shortly afterwards I was on the move again, this time to Washington DC for the All Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Ministerial Forum. Ireland has been a key partner in this initiative from its foundation with the Galway Statement in 2013.



Minister Peter Burke had been due to attend and we had a very engaging program in place for him around the main ministerial forum. This included a reception at Ambassador Mulhall's residence, a bi-lateral with the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the Biden Administration in the elegant Eisenhower building at the White House and a speaking opportunity at a side event in Notre Dame University. Unfortunately, Minister Burke had to cancel at short notice due to pressing Dail matters. However, the event went well in his absence and we built some very good contacts, with help from the Embassy in Washington for future engagement with US counterparts. I also got to spend time with our EU Commission colleagues and begin to pull together a plan for the high-level Mission Ocean event in Ireland.

Thankfully after that busy period, Brussels slowed down for the holiday period before coming back to life in late August under the Czech presidency. The weeks ahead promise to be busy with the EU Maritime Security Strategy update gathering pace and the Integrated Maritime Policy Working Party working on Council Conclusions on International Ocean Governance. This will need the input from many Departments at home as the areas covered are quite diverse from UNCLOS, to fisheries, to biodiversity, ship sourced pollution and defence.

We are also secured a maritime element to the State visit from the Portuguese President to Ireland in October and have also secured the high-level Mission Ocean Atlantic/Arctic event for Cork in November. Invitees to this will include EU Commissioners, EU maritime and research Ministers and other ocean leaders. There will also be side events around this meeting, focusing on case studies, practical examples of the Mission in action and citizen engagement.

The Atlantic Strategy will meet twice in the Autumn/Winter period including at the Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference in Cadiz in December. I hope this whistle stop tour gives an insight into some of what is under way here on the maritime front at the Perm Rep.



Maritime Affairs Attaché, Eoin Leahy with Marine Planning Advisor of the Marine Planning, Policy & Legislation Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage Tom Woolley attending the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon before boarding the Irish Naval Vessel George Bernard Shaw.

## “The MSP Challenge” – a unique approach to Maritime Education



Last June representatives from relevant stakeholders from across the island of Ireland (including our own Aisling Hardy from the MPPL Section) attended a unique maritime education event in Ulster University's new Belfast Campus. The event was part of an EMFF (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund) research project for the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) called “Northern Ireland

Knowledge Exchange for Marine Spatial Planning in the Irish Sea”. The project is exploring issues and opportunities facing transboundary marine planning in the Irish Sea.

The event was organised by Ulster University's Dr. Heather Ritchie, (Lecturer in Spatial Planning and Energy Policy in the Belfast School of Architecture and the Build Environment) and moderated by Dr Stephen Jay, Reader at the University of Liverpool. The event provided a unique opportunity to learn more about Marine Spatial Planning in a transboundary context and its practicalities, through the internationally renowned “**MSP Challenge**”: a form of serious gaming from Breda University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands.

The MSP Challenge offers an exciting and interactive opportunity to discuss, learn and make decisions about our seas and oceans, whilst having to balance the conflicting interests of other sectoral stakeholders.

In terms of the operation of the challenge, the participants were assigned random teams representing 3 fictional countries: Bayland, Island and Penninsuland. The countries all had their own policy areas to develop such as; multimodal transfer connections, energy transition, shipping and accessibility, investment, building with nature and innovating. Participants were self-assigned team roles – such as Maritime Planner, nature conservationist, Tourism and Recreation, Oil and Gas Sector, Renewable energy, Blue Biotech, Deep Sea mining and local businesses.

The participants then gathered around the table to experience MSP in a fictional sea area, The Rica Sea. The challenge was completed in 3 parts over a morning session, with plenty of coffee and time to discuss the interrelations between the various sectors and counties.



The board is pre-set with some existing parameters already in place, with tokens and threads representing all kinds of conditions (seabed type, depth, kelp forests, litter) and human activities (wind energy, fishing, research, beach tourism, swimming areas, extraction, ports, airports, shipwrecks, marine solar), ecological functions (spawning areas, conservation areas, no take zones, areas of high biodiversity) and shipping lanes and cables and pipelines. More activity tokens are placed on the board as the team country discuss the best positioning of activities in the Rica Sea and their own jurisdictional waters. Discussions about cross-border and transboundary issues are key. The challenge allows the players to experience and discuss the meaning of different maritime strategic objectives such as sustainable blue growth, the blue economy, land-sea interactions, good environmental status of the sea. Participants jointly make planning decisions for healthy, resilient and productive seas, whilst at the same time dealing with conflicting interests and communication challenges. As the board becomes filled up with tokens, the planners can assess how the Rica Sea is developing, part of the learning is to discover how MSP can steer marine developments and protect the marine environment.

The game can be used in different ways and can be tailored for different audiences, for the purpose of the EMFF project, it was focusing on marine energy and biodiversity, but those behind the game will be looking at developing the MSP game further, including licensing and enforcement aspects.

**If anyone would like to know more information about the challenge or would be interested in hosting a similar event, please get in touch with Heather ([h.ritchie@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:h.ritchie@ulster.ac.uk)) or Stephen ([stephen.jay@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.jay@liverpool.ac.uk)).**



# Ploughing Championships, Ratheniska, Co. Laois

20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022



Juliet Fitzpatrick, Aisling Hardy and David Carolan



Tom Wooley and Tracey O'Connor



David Carolan, Conor Breen and Tracey O'Connor.

All roads led to the Midlands in late September, as Ratheniska, Co. Laois hosted the National Ploughing Championships.

The first of the Championships to be held since 2019 welcomed approximately 277,000 patrons through the gates over three days.



## Day Two Photo (Bottom Right)

Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government & Planning, Peter Burke TD and Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD taking questions from the Press on the second day of the Championships.

Pic Source: @peterburkefg - Twitter

We were delighted to be part of the event as we spread the word about our latest developments including showing off our improved digital tool: [www.marineplan.ie](http://www.marineplan.ie)

Taking enquiries from large amounts of students was especially encouraging as they learned about how a plan-led system will benefit future generations and how effective marine planning will increase job and education prospects for all going forward.



## Coastwatch Citizen Science



**Coastwatch**

Article by Karin Dubsky

The annual Coastwatch autumn survey is in full swing and runs until October 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 or the closest spring tides (22nd/23rd Oct). It involves walking a chosen 500m of sea shore around low tide, reporting back and commenting on the land and shore use, erosion control measures observed, noting any litter and waste, as well as highlighting the selection of animals and plants.

Surveyors can also get Nitrate test kits and are invited to share their views on what is special about the site and any potential threats. Survey sites which are not accessible by foot may be accessed by kayaks. In late September, a traditional fisherman offered his boat and experienced surveyors combined their observations with the fisherman's local knowledge while passing down the estuary.

Participants collect a huge amount of coastal information. Photos and field visits by the core team help verify special finds like seagrass beds. Most volunteers now input their reports on line. The Coastwatch tech team then cleans and analyses the data and produces GIS maps and result statistics as snapshot pictures of hundreds of surveyed shores that autumn. Trends can also be shared by combining data from over 30 years of these annual autumn surveys. Results highlights are published by first week in December.

Data gathering is just one of several important attributes to this citizen science work. In some countries Coastwatch is the coastal/marine fieldwork option for coastal secondary schools. In Portugal for example the primary reason is marine education.



Coastwatch Leader Karin Dubsky in Booley Bay, Wexford explaining the workings of the Honeycomb Reef Worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*)

Here are three attributes which we see as critical for Ireland with over 7,500 km of coast, that will inform and assist Irish Maritime authorities to research, manage and protect an informed engaged public.

### One:

Individuals and families from coastal communities, as well as school, scout and swimmer groups get out on the Coastwatch survey with a common inquisitive purpose. The volunteers look closely at their shore, get excited about special marine life finds and share this and problems with others.

This first-hand experience is facilitated by a network of Coastwatch regional coordinators.

One surveyor once described this facilitated survey experience as ‘the day I started to understand how the shore ticks and fell in love with it. Before that I just used it to get healthy exercise’.

### Two:

The Coastwatch survey form and guide notes use basic scientific and engineering vocabulary, which citizens learn and use. The Coastwatch core team includes scientific and legal expertise which volunteers access. This and further involvement in workshops and events paves the way into reading consultant reports about coastal planning and **informed public participation in decision making**. After finding hectares of high value seagrass *Zostera spp* volunteers realise how inadequate some of our inshore mapping is and how important these finds are.

### Three:

Action: Coastwatch encourages action based on finding. Action may be straight forward on the ground or go to the root of an issue and take longer to accomplish.

This is a pivotal year for our coast. The new marine planning law the ‘MAP Act 2021’ was passed in December 2021. Within months, MARA – the new marine planning agency will be established and then local authorities will take on responsibilities for the first 3 nm of sea. It’s a unique opportunity to create an effective functioning system for coastal management. Informed citizens are eagerly awaiting to participate in this new approach, in better protection of nature and heritage, special features and traditional sustainable uses.



At the Waterford estuary (Russian Side) a group led by Coastwatcher, Cllr Jody Power who surveyed the area and then led a ‘Clean Coast’ clean up.

All information is on [www.coastwatch.org](http://www.coastwatch.org). The Coastwatch team of [regional coordinators](#) is happy to help train new surveyor groups or guide individuals. Water tests can be ordered when [booking a survey unit](#) or by emailing [survey@coastwatch.org](mailto:survey@coastwatch.org).

## A word from MARA (Maritime Area Regulatory Authority)



Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D. chats with staff from the MARA Establishment Unit; John Kennedy, Eimear Whelan, Neil Maher and Sharon Kilkenny at the recent National Ploughing Championships

# MARA

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí  
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

Important work continues in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the process to establish the new Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

A dedicated MARA Establishment Unit is now in place within the Department and work is advancing along the various workstreams, including governance, operational development and corporate development.

A new logo for MARA has recently been unveiled (**see above**), work is progressing on developing a website which will be the main source of information for stakeholders over the coming months prior to formal establishment, and the team in the Unit is also working on putting in place the processes and procedures to enable MARA to accept applications for maritime consents as early as possible in 2023.

Once MARA has been established in early 2023, staff from the MARA Establishment Unit will be seconded into the new agency and it is also intended that the Board of MARA and the chief executive officer will likewise be in situ at that point. In relation to the Board, a recent positive development has been the publishing of the vacancy notice for the position of the Chairperson, and members of the Board, on [www.stateboards.ie](http://www.stateboards.ie). Following this campaign, an assessment process will yield a shortlist of the most suitably qualified candidates which will be sent forward for the Minister's consideration.

The recruitment campaign for the chief executive officer has also recently got underway and is currently being advertised by the Public Appointments Service on [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie). Full details regarding the role, including the required qualifications and experience, are included in the Information Booklet on the Public Jobs website. The closing date for receipt of completed applications will be Thursday 20th October, 2022.

Finally, the MARA Establishment Unit would like to thank all those who visited the MARA 'booth' at the recent National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska in County Laois. The event was a big success in terms of meeting with stakeholders from a variety of different backgrounds, and the team looks forward to further engagement via other fora in the coming months.

**If you would like to contact the MARA Establishment Unit in the Department for further information on the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, please email [info@maritimeregulator.ie](mailto:info@maritimeregulator.ie).**



## Explorers Education Programme taking bookings for its back to school programme 2022-2023

The 2022-2023 school term is here, and teachers can now plan seashore-safari's and a range of marine project modules in the classroom, for an action-packed timetable as part of the Explorers Education Programme.



With two class visits per module and a wealth of educational resources for the children and teachers, this is a great way to provide themed learning, as well as interacting with marine scientists and experts in the classroom.

“Each of the team members provide practical activities as well as sharing their stories about working in marine sciences, biodiversity and environmental care, and their adventures at sea, which often opens up a new world for children. Seeing their excitement makes it a rewarding experience for all of us. We can't wait to start the new school year!” explained Ms Cushla Dromgool-Regan, Explorers Strategic Education and Communications Manager, Camden Education Trust.

Last year the Explorers Programme delivered over 400 modules and reached nearly 14,000 children in fourteen coastal counties around Ireland.

For further information about booking the Explorers Education Programme go to the contacts page on at [www.explorers.ie](http://www.explorers.ie). The Explorers Education Programme is funded by the Marine Institute, Ireland's state agency for marine research, technology development and innovation.

The full news item can be accessed here: [Click Here.](#)



Tramore, Co. Waterford

## Arrival of Ireland's new research vessel - RV Tom Crean

Ireland's newest research vessel the **RV Tom Crean** arrived into Galway Port on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2022. The **RV Tom Crean** will enable the Marine Institute to continue to lead and support vital scientific surveys that contribute to Ireland's position as a leader in marine science. The research vessel will carry out a wide range of marine research activities including expanded fisheries surveys, seabed mapping and marine spatial planning, climate change related research, environmental monitoring, deep water surveys, and support increased research in the Atlantic Ocean.



The vessel was named after the renowned seaman and explorer from Kerry who undertook three ground-breaking expeditions to the Antarctic in the early years of the 20th Century.

The new research vessel is a silent vessel, capable of operating throughout the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and will replace the **RV Celtic Voyager**, which was Ireland's first purpose-built research vessel which arrived in 1997. The **RV Tom Crean** will be at sea for 300 operational days each year – heading to sea for at least 21 days at a time - and aims to accommodate up to 3000 scientist days annually and is designed to operate in harsh sea conditions. The vessel design incorporates the latest proven technologies to ensure that it operates as efficiently as possible, with reduced fuel consumption and minimising the vessel's environmental impact and carbon footprint.

To get all the latest updates on the new vessel and find out about the exciting work of the Marine Institute follow them on Twitter [@MarineInst](#), Facebook [@MarineInstitute](#) and Instagram [@MarineInstituteIreland](#).



The full news item can be found [here](#).

## Upcoming Events:

### 20<sup>th</sup> October:

#### **Diversity in Bioeconomy.**

**Venue:** Portershed, Eyre Square, Galway. The aim of this event is to create a platform for networking among the diverse range of people that work in the bioeconomy sector in Ireland. For further information [click here](#).

### 26<sup>th</sup> October:

#### **2022 Laurentic Forum.**

**Venue:** Inishowen, Co. Donegal and online.

Gather with policy insiders, experts and stakeholders exploring the rapidly changing and expanding areas of the blue bioeconomy and tourism from Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Ireland, Iceland and North Norway.

For further information [click here](#).

### 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November:

#### **Commissioners of Irish Lights, Navigating To 2050 – A Safe and Sustainable Maritime Future.**

**Venue:** Dublin Castle and online. For further information [click here](#).

### TBC November:

First Port Coordination Group meeting, chaired by the Department of Transport.

### 21st November:

#### **MSP Forum.**

**Venue:** Barcelona, Spain. To bring together practitioners to discuss and exchange about concrete examples and recommendations on how to apply MSP. For further information [click here](#).

### 22nd & 23rd November:

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Marine Spatial Planning.**

**Venue:** Barcelona, Spain and online. To assess the state-of-the-art implementation of MSP and discuss challenges and opportunities to achieve the MSP Roadmap target. For further information [click here](#).

### 18th February:

#### **MRIA Marine Renewables Emerging Technologies Industry Forum.**

**Venue:** Online. The Forum is the key information gathering event for the sector in Ireland and Northern Ireland. For further information [click here](#).

Our thanks to the Marine Institute for compiling this list



## Concluding note from MPPL

### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

We received a hugely positive reaction to our inaugural newsletter earlier in the summer and so from all of us here in the Marine Planning, Policy & Legislation team, we thank you for taking the time to contact us and providing us with your feedback.

If you have any more feedback or indeed any articles you would like to contribute, please contact us at [mpp@housing.gov.ie](mailto:mpp@housing.gov.ie).

Another newsletter will issue in the first quarter of 2023.

### We Need Your Photos!!!

We at MPPL are always interested in marine photography, so please feel free to submit your marine photos to us and we will feature the best ones in our future editions. Send them on to [mpp@housing.gov.ie](mailto:mpp@housing.gov.ie)

### National Marine Planning Framework copies still available

Our National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) is still available. The NMPF is Ireland's first national framework for managing marine activities and outlines the Government's vision for how we want to use, protect and enjoy our seas in the years up to 2040.

The NMPF and all relevant details of its development history can be viewed [here](#).

Should you wish to acquire a hard copy of the NMPF, please email [mpp@housing.gov.ie](mailto:mpp@housing.gov.ie) and we will be happy to post one out to you.

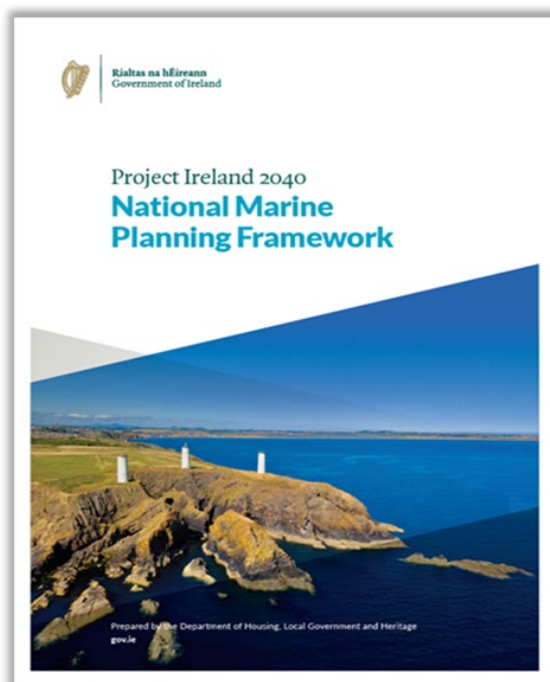
Requests for a copy of the NMPV "*as Gaeilge*" will also be facilitated.

Until next time,

Kind Regards,

**The Marine Planning Policy and Legislation Team**

For more updates or info, go to: [www.marineplan.ie](http://www.marineplan.ie)



[gov.ie/housing](https://gov.ie/housing)

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland