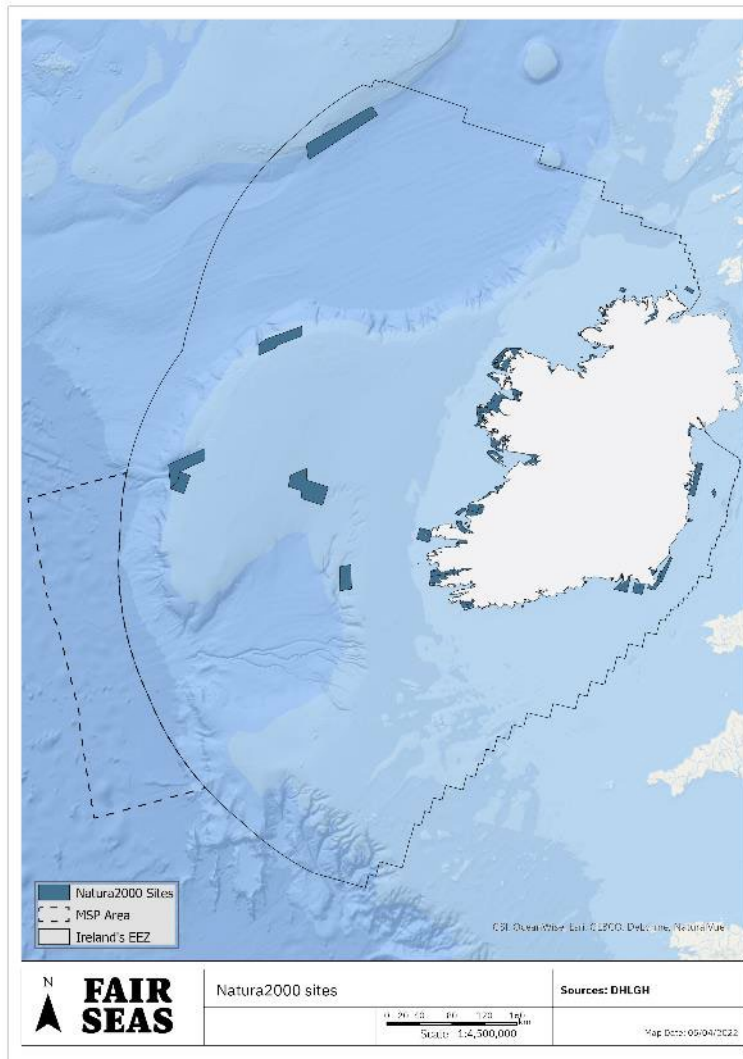


# Protecting and Restoring Coastal and Marine Ecosystems: MSP as a Framework for Action?

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# Marine Protection to Date



- Only ~2% currently protected through EU Directives (SACs & SPAs)
- Obligated to have reached 10% by 2020
- New target to reach 30% by 2030
- MPAs are a requirement of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

## CHAPTER III

### MARINE STRATEGIES: PROGRAMMES OF MEASURES

#### Article 13

#### Programmes of measures

4. Programmes of measures established pursuant to this Article shall include spatial protection measures, contributing to coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas, adequately covering the diversity of the constituent ecosystems, such as special areas of conservation pursuant to the Habitats Directive, special protection areas pursuant to the Birds Directive, and marine protected areas as agreed by the Community or Member States concerned in the framework of international or regional agreements to which they are parties.

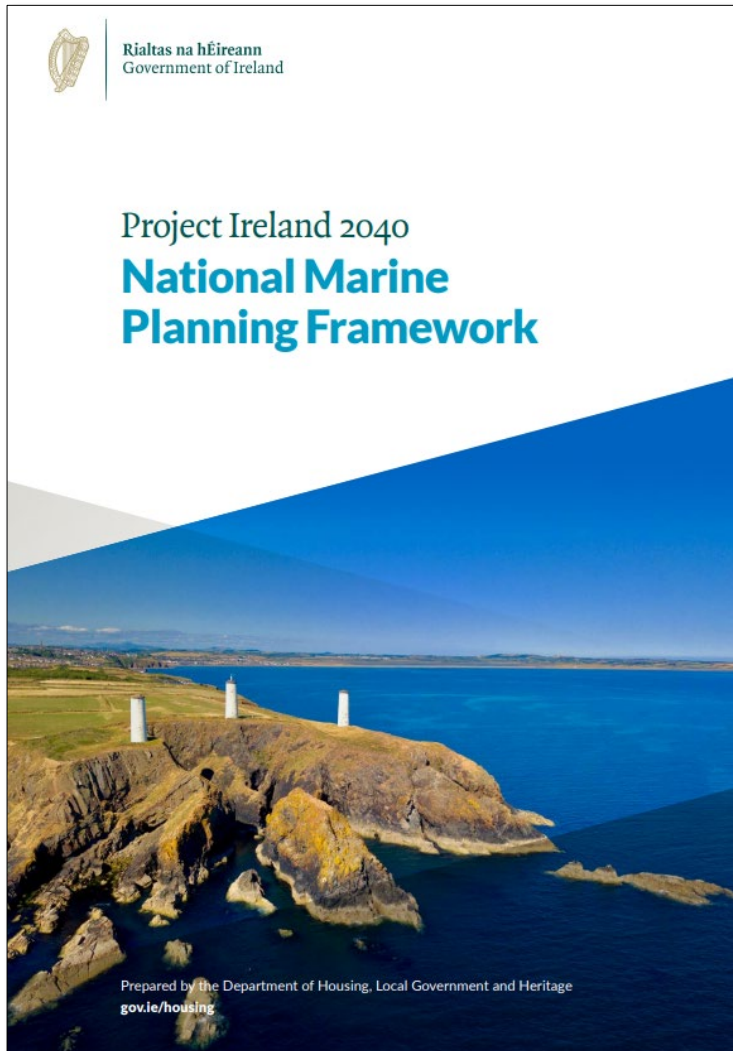
# Objectives of Marine Spatial Planning

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1. When establishing and implementing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall consider economic, social and environmental aspects to support sustainable development and growth in the maritime sector, applying an ecosystem-based approach, and to promote the coexistence of relevant activities and uses.
2. Through their maritime spatial plans, Member States shall aim to contribute to the sustainable development of energy sectors at sea, of maritime transport, and of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and to the preservation, protection and improvement of the environment, including resilience to climate change impacts. In addition, Member States may pursue other objectives such as the promotion of sustainable tourism and the sustainable extraction of raw materials.
3. This Directive is without prejudice to the competence of Member States to determine how the different objectives are reflected and weighted in their maritime spatial plan or plans.



# National Marine Planning Framework



- Major gap in terms of spatial and temporal data on current and future uses
  - Ecosystem based approach not applied. This may compound issues relating to protecting and restoring our marine ecosystem
- No list of the features that may be required in the future MPA network
  - This undermines the protected area sites policy
- No sensitivity assessment makes it difficult to avoid areas that may need to be protected or restored
  - Developments might occur in areas we should have protected or restored
- MPAs are not included in the final MSP
  - Significant time lag between the designation of MPAs and developments

# Designated Maritime Area Plans

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- Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs) can be created through provisions in the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021)
- These ‘subnational’ marine plans could play a role in ecosystem protection and restoration, especially in this interim period
- Through the EU Restoration Law we will have legally binding targets for restoration - subnational MSPs could help in achieving these targets
- Crucially, DMAPs should be used as a tool to support the achievement of Good Environmental Status



# Is MSP a Framework for Protecting and Restoring our Coastal and Marine Ecosystems?

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Yes!

The methods for creating MSPs and MPAs should be similar and complimentary. If we follow the recipe book (MSP Directive) and learn from best practice examples, MSP in Ireland can be a framework for protecting and restoring our coastal and marine ecosystems.

# What needs to be done?

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1. All future developments must be guided by strict adherence to the precautionary principle (given the lack of data in the NMPF)
2. The list of features for the MPA network must be published, including proposed locations
3. A robust sensitivity assessment must be carried out as a matter of urgency. Could OREDP II be an opportunity?
4. The NMPF must be reviewed and substantially updated



Sustainable Water Network



Thank you