



RTPI Ireland

mediation of space · making of place

Royal Town Planning Institute Ireland

c/o 38 Merrion Square

Dublin 2

Ireland

Phone: 08925 15649

Email: contact@rtpiiireland.com

Website: www.rtpi.org.uk/ireland

Twitter: @RTPIIreland

MSP Submissions,
Marine Spatial Planning Section,
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government,
Newtown Road,
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Email to msp@housing.gov.ie

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Dear Sir/ Madam

Public Consultation on National Marine Planning Framework Baseline Report

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Ireland is a leading planning body for spatial, sustainable, integrative and inclusive planning. We work to promote the art and science of planning for the public benefit and doing so we:

- support policy development to improve approaches to planning for the benefit of the public;
- maintain the professional standards of our members;
- support our members to have the skills and knowledge they need to deliver planning effectively;
- maintain high standards of planning education;
- develop and promote new thinking, ideas and approaches which can improve planning;
- support our membership to work with others who have a role in developing places; and
- improve the understanding of planning and the planning system to policy makers, politicians, practitioners and the general public.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Public Consultation on National Marine Planning Framework Baseline Report. Our comments are set out below.

We welcome the publication of the baseline report. Marine Spatial Planning is an important function, especially given a rise in competing demands in the marine environment. It is essential therefore that the Government continues to maintain this as a priority. In doing this RTPI Ireland considers that a number of key principles must be at the heart of its approach. These include:


- There must be a recognition of the link between marine and terrestrial planning and all efforts should be made to ensure that these are joined up. There will be implications arising from development and decisions made in the marine environment on land, and vice versa. Given this we need to ensure that the frameworks put in place complement and support one another. This means approaches to developing a National Marine Spatial Plan must be taken forward hand in hand with land use planning documents and strategies including the National Planning

Framework, the National Development Plan, Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies and development plans.

- The principles of, and approaches taken to, land use planning provide a good framework upon which to base approaches to marine planning. Lessons can be learned from, for example, approaches to forward planning through development plans, engagement with communities and stakeholders, decision making on applications for development and conservation of treasured places and structures. Approaches taken in other parts of the world, notably the UK, could provide a way forward on this and the Institute would be happy to help the Government explore how this could be applied.
- There is a need for the Government to recognise the need for training and support to allow officials to learn about the specific issues encountered in marine spatial planning, along with any new regime and processes which are put in place to manage the marine environment.
- The Government must recognise that marine spatial planning may have international dimensions to it and so must plan accordingly for this and be aware of how this works in other countries.
- Any approach to managing the marine environment must look to balance competing demands and needs. This is especially important in the light of its potential for renewable energy generation through harnessing wind and tidal power whilst at the same time a need to protect the characteristics of marine areas and the range of animal and plant life they contain.

We would be happy to discuss or clarify any aspect of our submission. Our Director, Craig McLaren can be contacted on 08925 15649 or contact@rtpireland.com if you would like this be arranged.

Yours faithfully



Marion R Chalmers MRTPI
Chair