

FAIR SEAS

Building a Movement of Ocean Stewardship



#FairSeas
#30x30

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Ireland's Marine Protected Area Bill 2023

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FAIR SEAS

We are a coalition of Ireland’s leading environmental non-governmental organisations and networks.

Our ambition is to see Ireland become a leader in marine protection, giving our species, habitats and coastal communities the opportunity to thrive.

Our Partners



Our Funders

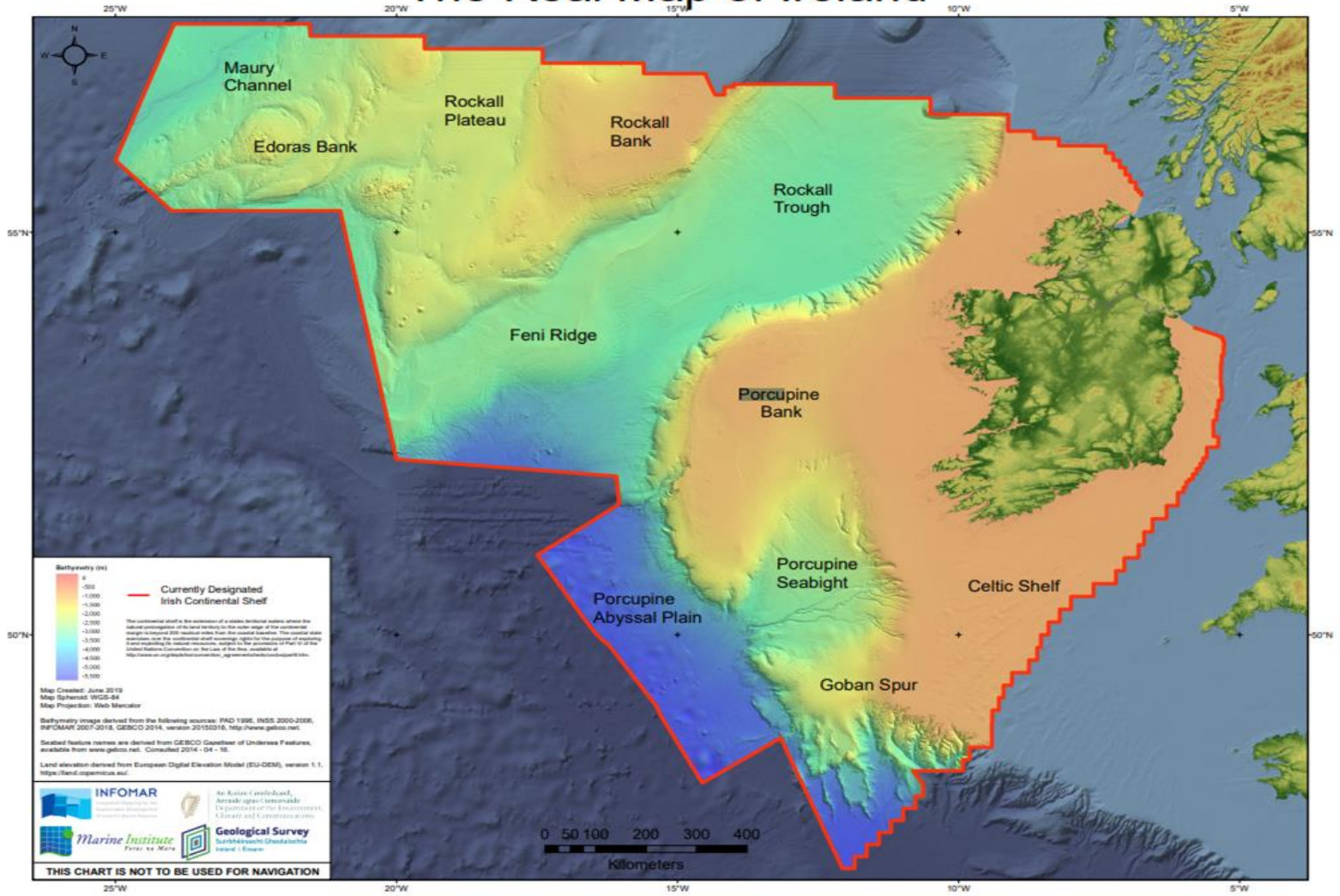


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- **Ireland's marine area is enormous – its stewardship by successive Governments has failed to deliver its full ecological, economic or social potential**
- **Despite some progress, the quantity and quality of Ireland's current MPA network is poor – transformational change needed**
- **Irish Government is drafting new MPA legislation as we speak –exciting moment for Irish marine conservation**
- **At the end of the day, healthy seas help tackle the biodiversity and climate crisis**



The Real Map of Ireland



Farraigí na hÉireann

- Real map of Ireland is ten times the size of the Island of Ireland
- Over 490,000km²
- Includes, territorial waters, EEZ and parts of the continental shelf

Duty and responsibility to look after this vast marine area

Bathymetry (m)

0
-500
-1000
-1500
-2000
-2500
-3000
-3500
-4000
-4500
-5000

— Currently Designated Irish Continental Shelf

The continental shelf is the extension of a stable tectonic surface, where the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin is beyond 200 metres water from the coastal baseline. The continental shelf extends to the natural prolongation, subject to the provisions of Part 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and shall be subject to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and shall be subject to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Map Created: June 2019
Map Spheroid: WGS-84
Map Projection: Web Mercator

Bathymetry image derived from the following sources: IHO 1996, IHO S 2000-2006, IFMOMAR 2007-2016, GEBCO 2016, version 20150316, <http://www.gebco.net>

Seabed feature names are derived from GEBCO Geoprocessed of Undersea Features, available from www.gebco.net. Consulted 2014 - 04 - 18.

Land elevation derived from European Digital Elevation Model (EU-DEM), version 1.1, <http://land.copernicus.eu/>

INFOMAR
The National Centre for Marine Information
An Active Co-ordinator, Approved Agency, Governmental, in partnership with the Environmental, Marine and Coastal Authorities

Marine Institute
Faisle na Mara

Geological Survey
Dún na Scála

THIS CHART IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION



Marine Protected Areas

“a geographically defined area of marine character or influence which is protected through legal means for the purpose of the conservation and or restoration of species, habitats or ecosystems and their associated ecosystem services, processes and cultural values, and managed with the intention of achieving stated conservation objectives” Expanding Ireland’s Marine Protected Area Network Report (2020)

A close-up photograph of a starfish with five arms, resting on a dark, textured rock. The starfish is light-colored with some darker spots. The background is dark and out of focus.

30x30 target

The target of achieving 30% of land and sea in a protected area by 2030

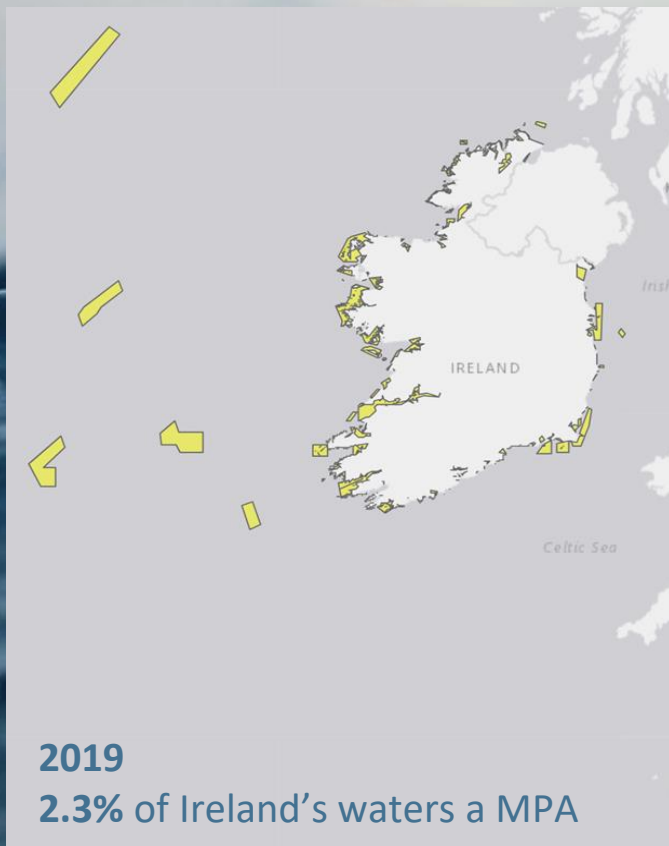
Ireland's 30x30 MPA commitments

Ireland has committed to protecting 30% of its waters in a protected area by 2030;

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Nationally | Programme for Government (2020) & multiple Government announcements and speeches |
| Europe | EU Biodiversity Strategy (2020) & EU Commission MPA Pledge (2 weeks ago) |
| Globally | The Kunming-Montreal Agreement under the UN Convention on Biological Biodiversity - COP15 (2022) |

Yet there has been progress...

Designation



Legislation

Timeline for Ireland's new MPA legislation

2022 – MPA Bill General Scheme published.

Jan/Feb 2023 – Pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme & recommendations published by committee.

March 2023 – Fair Seas present in the AV room.

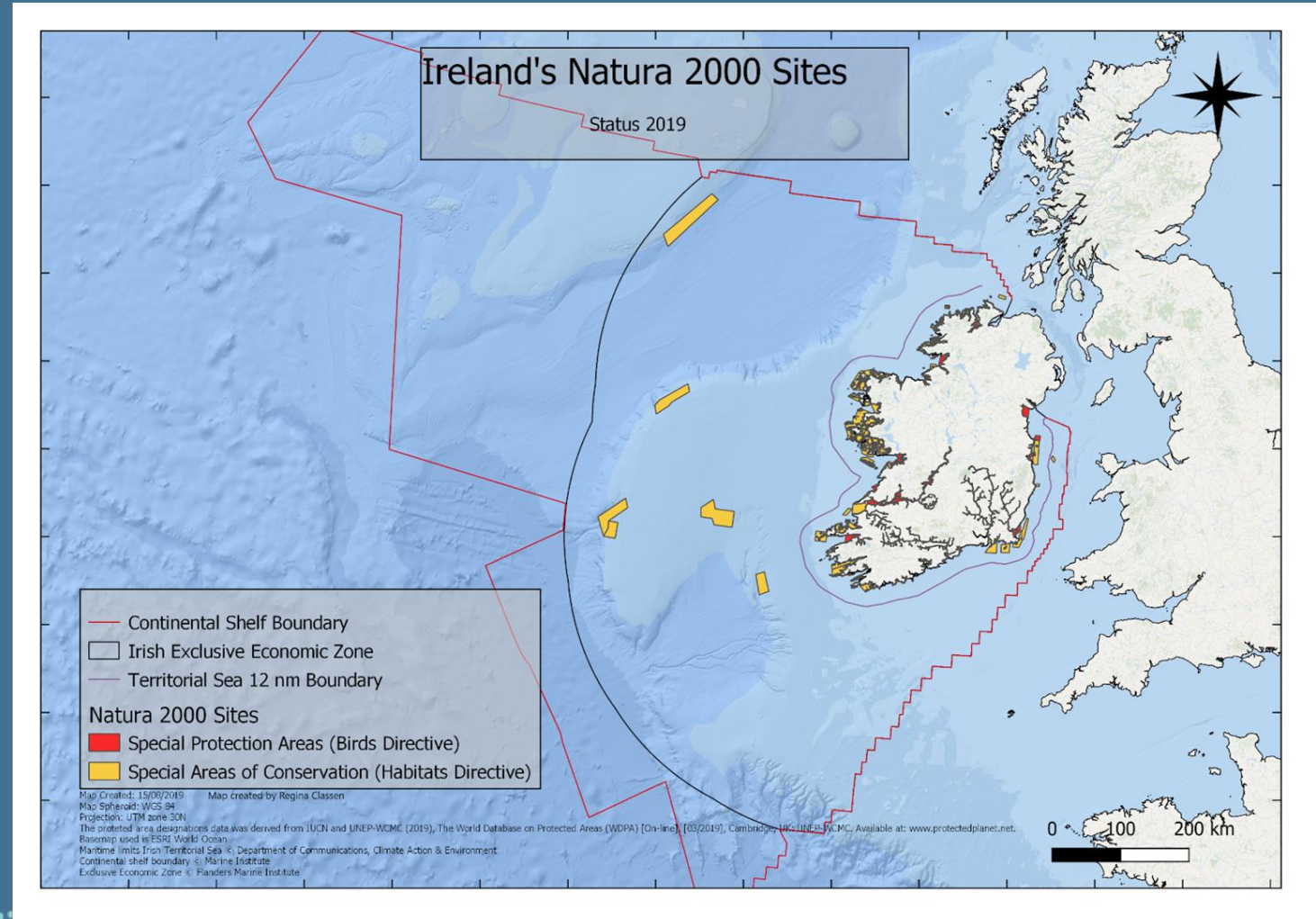
July 2023 – Gov't missed its own deadline to publish MPA Bill.

October 2023 – Fair Seas present in the AV room.

How effective is Ireland's MPA network?

- Primarily consists of Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs)
- Until recently 2.1% of Irish waters designated, but two recent cSACs increased that to 9%
- Management plans and conservation measures lacking or nonexistent
- Associated court cases and EU Commission warnings
- Some lack site specific conservation objectives

Paradigm shift of how we designate and implement MPAs in Ireland needed



Meanwhile...marine biodiversity continues to decline

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Marine Strategy Directive 2030
Article 17 update
Strategy Part 2
Determination of
Status (Article 17)
Targets (Article 17)

June 2020

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning

**Ireland's Environment
An Integrated Strategy
2020**

**Ireland
Red List No. 11**

**Cartilaginous fish
[Sharks, skates, rays
and chimaeras]**

Marine Institute
Foras na Mara

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

IRISH OCEAN CLIMATE ECOSYSTEMS

SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS 2023

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

OSPAR COMMISSION

OSPAR's Quality Status Report 2023 Key findings report

→ READ MORE

→ READ MORE

Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026

Red-list species (high conservation concern)

Breeding	Breeding continued	Wintering continued
Quail	Ring Ouzel	Grey Plover
Grey Partridge	Common Redstart	Bar-tailed Godwit
Red Grouse	Whinchat	Black-tailed Godwit
Black-necked Grebe	Meadow Pipit	Knot
Stock Dove	Grey Wagtail	Purple Sandpiper
Nightjar	Twite	Snowy Owl
Swift	Yellowhammer	Redwing
Corncrake		
Leach's Storm-petrel	Passage	Breeding and Wintering
Woodcock	Turtle Dove	Eider
Red-necked Phalarope	Balearic Shearwater	Common Scoter
Kittiwake	Curlew Sandpiper	Pochard
Puffin		Shoveler
Razorbill	Wintering	Oystercatcher
Barn Owl	Bewick's Swan	Golden Plover
Golden Eagle	Long-tailed Duck	Lapwing
White-tailed Eagle	Velvet Scoter	Curlew
Red Kite	Goldeneye	Dunlin
Kestrel	Scaup	Shipe
Wood Warbler	Slavonian Grebe	Redshank

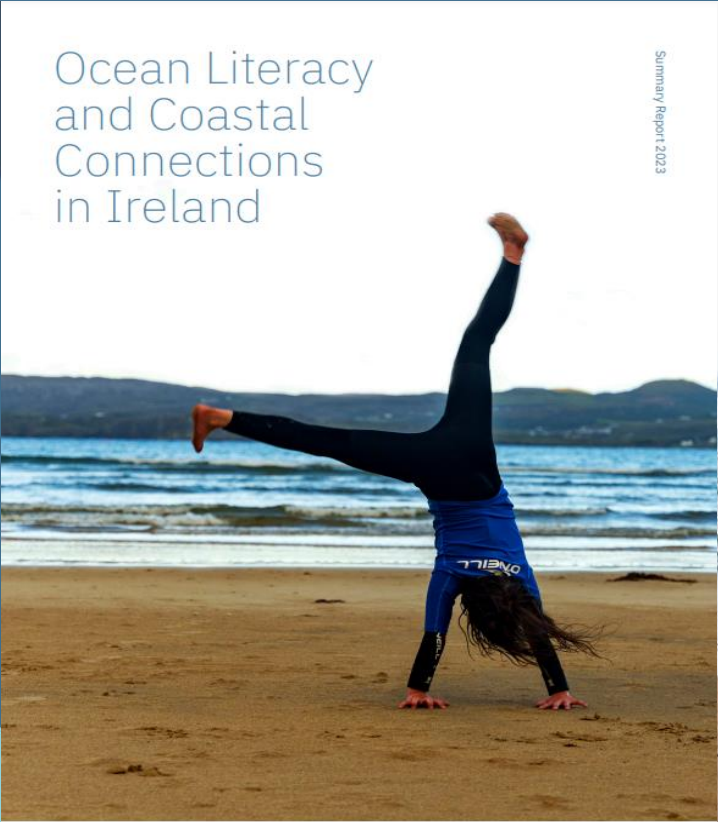
For more information, please see Gilbert G, Stanbury A and Lewis L (2021), "Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020 -2026". Irish Birds 9: 523-544

The categorisation of species as breeding, wintering etc. refers to the populations against which BoCCI criteria were applied

giving nature a home
BirdWatchIreland
OSPAR

Meanwhile...Fair Seas have been busy

Sustainably Financing
Ireland's Marine
Protected Area Network



Ocean Literacy
and Coastal
Connections
in Ireland

Summary Report 2023

FAIR SEAS

Author: Dr Emma McKinley



Revitalising
Our Seas

Identifying Areas of Interest
for Marine Protected Area
Designation in Irish Waters

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COMING SOON

FAIR SEAS



Please Sign and Share

Ireland's new MPA legislation must include:

- (1) Ambitious and binding targets to effectively protect 30% of Ireland's seas as MPAs by 2030**
 - Including a target of 10% "strictly" protected.
- (2) A robust management framework which clearly defines:**
 - What will be protected and how;
 - The responsible government authorities for implementation and management.
- (3) Community engagement at every stage of the MPA designation and management process**
 - Based on transparency, inclusiveness, and fairness among local, regional, and national stakeholders.



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16 Dáil sitting days to Christmas recess '23

41 Dáil sitting days to Easter recess '24

79 Dáil sitting days to summer recess '24

Time is running out

602 Dáil sitting days until 2030

At the end of the day...

Marine Protected Areas help deliver healthy seas. And healthy seas are:

- (1) Better able to mitigate the impact of climate change at global scale (e.g., climate regulation, carbon sequestration, absorption of atmospheric heat)**
- (2) More resilient to the ever worsening impacts of climate change (e.g., able to withstand and quickly recover from extreme events)**
- (3) Better positioned to help coastal communities, people their livelihoods adapt to the social and economic changes brought about by climate change (e.g., resilient fisheries, diversity of marine life for eco-tourism & recreational angling, vibrant coastal habitats & coastal protection)**



Final thoughts

Tell your elected representatives you care about the sea!

Don't underestimate the importance and urgent nature of this legislation in tackling the nature but also climate crisis

Support the inclusion of binding targets – 30% MPAs by 2030 including 10% strictly protected

New MPA law will shape how we care for our marine species, habitats & ecosystems for decades to come

We need to get it right!





Go raibh maith agaibh!