

Marine Spatial Planning Stakeholder Advisory Group

Report of Fifth Meeting held 9th April 2019

Attendance List Attached

1. Welcome and Introduction

Minister English welcomed members and outlined that the meeting was intended to focus on open discussions in relation to:

- potential approaches to a spatial designation process and
- the proposed structure of the draft NMPF.

Members are invited to make written comments on either topic by the end of April.

The Minister welcomed the following changes in membership since the last meeting:

New Members

Teresa Morrissey is the newly appointed Aquaculture Executive from the Irish Farmers Association.

New Representatives

- Noel Cunniffe will replace Anne-Marie McCague as representative of the Irish Wind Energy Association but is represented today by Ross McNally.
- Steve Conlon replaces Maurice Pratt as representative of the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation.
- Cormac Nolan replaces Sinead O'Brien as representative of SWAN Ireland.
- Paul Hyde replaces Eugene Nixon as representative of An Bord Pleanala.

Alternate Attendance

- Harry Hermon (Irish Sailing) attending as alternate for Mary O'Connor, CEO, Federation of Irish Sport.

2. NMPF Spatial Designation / Zoning

Philip Nugent made a presentation (attached) on the options for what zoning can mean and possible designation processes, following which there was an open discussion on the topic. Members were invited to make written comments by the end of April.

3. Draft NMPF – Proposed Structure

Philip Nugent made a presentation (attached) on the proposed outline structure of the draft NMPF, following which there was an open discussion on the topic. Members were invited to make written comments by the end of April.

4. AOB – Preparation of a Marine Planning Policy Statement

Philip Nugent outlined plans to prepare a Marine Planning Policy Statement (MPPS) to guide the development of the NMPF. The MPPS will be a strategic and high level statement concerning the policy objectives and priorities of the Government regarding marine planning by the State in the maritime area. It will be given a statutory basis in primary legislation and will underpin the main pillars of the marine planning system: forward planning, development management, and implementation/enforcement. It is intended to publish the first MPPS at the Our Ocean Wealth conference in early June.

5. Next Meetings

Dates for further meetings in 2019 are as follows:

- Tuesday 11th June 09:00 – 13:00 with the following items on the agenda:
 - Marine Planning Policy Statement
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the NMPF
 - Implementation Arrangements
- Tuesday 16th July 11:00 – 13:00
- Tuesday 15th October 11:00 – 13:00