

# **Marine Spatial Planning Stakeholder Advisory Group**

## **Report of Third Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

### **Attendance List Attached**

#### **1. Welcome**

Minister Damien English welcomed members to the third meeting of the Group and briefly outlined that discussions during this meeting would focus on the Baseline Report which had been approved by Government and published the previous day, and a discussion paper on the topic of Spatial Designations.

Speaking in remembrance of the late Richie Flynn (RIP), the Minister recalled the valuable contribution he made to the group representing the aquaculture sector, and expressed his condolences to Richie's wife and family.

The Minister welcomed two new members he appointed since the last meeting:

- Paal Janson, Irish Marine Federation representing the Marine Leisure Sector; and
- Shane Young, Killary Adventures representing the Adventure Tourism Sector.

#### **2. Report of Second Meeting**

The report of the second meeting was adopted as circulated.

#### **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was agreed.

#### **4. Baseline Report**

Philip Nugent gave a short presentation on the Baseline Report which was approved by Government and published the previous day (18<sup>th</sup> September). Submissions on the report are invited until midday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

## **5. Spatial Designations**

Referring to the discussion paper which had been circulated, members expressed a range of views on the topic. Points made included the following:

- The importance of considering the temporal aspects of spatial designation;
- The varying hard / soft designation types and the different layerings possible;
- The need for spatial designation to be considered from a positive, enabling perspective rather than just in exclusionary terms;
- The fact that all forward planning involves trade-offs.

Members were requested to provide written comments as part of their submissions on the Baseline Report, which contains a related consultation question. The MSP team undertook to prepare a short paper providing a summary of approaches taken to spatial designation in other jurisdictions to assist members' consideration of the issue.

## **6. Next Meetings**

Dates for meetings in 2019, all to be held at the Custom House, are as follows:

- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 11:00 – 13:00
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 11:00 – 13:00
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 11:00 – 13:00
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 11:00 – 13:00

## **7. AOB**

In relation to queries raised by members Minister English responded as follows:

- sustainable development of a thriving ocean economy, sustainable utilisation of our marine resources, and the ecosystem-based approach to marine planning are mentioned in the high level strategic objectives for MSP, and therefore quotation of UN Sustainable Development Goals is not necessary;
- legal advice from the Office of the Attorney General will inform finalisation of the Maritime Area and Foreshore (Amendment) Bill and a public statement will be made in due course on the next steps to be taken;
- arrangements will be made for representation on the group for the seaweed sector;

- the Marine Institute will be invited to make a presentation to a future meeting on spatial data and evidence work being carried out in support of the MSP process.