

From: Hugh James Killen [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 December 2018 11:42

To: Marine Spatial Planning <msp@housing.gov.ie>

Subject: National Marine Planning Framework - Baseline Report consultation comments

Re.: 'National Marine Planning Framework - Baseline Report'

Dear Mr English,

Congratulations to you, Mr Nugent and Ms Santry for producing such a comprehensive and important Marine Baseline Report.

I wish to make the following suggestions in regards the baseline report:

Energy

In tackling climate change and the growing costs of climate change, a policy in support of a move towards a low carbon future and complete divestment of fossil fuels is a requisite, in my opinion. The draft long term goal of 'fossil fuels largely to be replaced by renewable energy sources' must become a short term goal. Gas and oil sourced energy should be removed or phased out over short term.

In terms of renewable energy production, focus is placed on off-shore wind farms. In terms of area zoning, areas suitable for renewable energy should be zoned on map form within a future National Marine Plan. In addition, there are key strategic locations along the Irish coastline which should be safeguarded (and shown on the same map) for key electricity infrastructure connections to connect such wind farms into the national electricity grid network.

Marine Environment and Nature Conservation

We are currently living within the 6th major loss of species in the planet's history. A National Marine Plan policy must adopt the ecosystem services/based approach in the assessment of all future development proposals.

It is a requirement to identify Marine Protected Areas. The recent and extensive ObSERVE programme provides a wealth of information which helps understand marine ecosystems. This information must be used to identify and safeguard the important marine biodiversity and ecosystems. Such areas must be zoned on a map and protected with supporting policy/objective. The Marine Protected Areas should extend beyond Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation.

I fully support policies/objectives to be included in the draft Plan for the protection and enhancement of marine protected species and habitats. Policies/objectives must be included within the draft Plan to counteract pressures on our marine environment such as climate change, alien invasive species, over-fishing, pollution, litter and plastic, must be introduced.

Tourism / Sport and Recreation

Non-motorised leisure sports should be safeguarded through policy and/or zoning.

Marine Plan Objectives

Any draft Marine Spatial Plan should include the following National Strategic Outcomes;

- Transition to a Low Carbon Economy,
 - Support in principle for all forms of renewable energy,
 - The development and protection of non-motorised access to open waters,
- and
- Protection of marine ecosystems and species.

Consultation Question

Apropos Q.4, the draft Plan should adopt a combination of zoning and policy/objectives approaches. The policy could adopt a two-tier policy approach;

1. National Strategic Outcomes, and

2. Policy Objectives.

The draft Plan should also adopt a map-based zoning approach to safeguard and protect the following assets:

- Extensive Marine Protected Areas protecting important marine ecosystems and species based on the ObSERVE studies data,
- Preferred locations for off-shore renewable energy (including Wind and Wave), and
 - Strategic areas for non-motorised sports and leisure access.

Conclusion

The future draft Marine Plan should be delivered with an associated Action Plan and a generous Capital Investment Budget.

Thank you for the helpful public consultation and I wish you every success in producing the draft Marine Plan. Should you require any clarifications on the above suggestions, please email on details below.

Kind regards,

Hugh Killen

