

Input on the National Marine Planning Framework Baseline Report

Andrew Sneyd

The concept of asking the public to engage in relation to the planning process is strange as many in the public have very little knowledge on this topic, in fact, I was completely unaware of this report or the possibility of giving input until my college lecturer suggested that we give feedback on it. Therefore, it seems to me that the public's opinion is not actually being sought, as the public has not been made aware of the report. Instead, the perception that the public had the ability to have a say is what is wanted. Also, the report is so long that I can almost guarantee that little to no members of the public would read it.

As I am another member of the public, I do not have a huge amount of knowledge on this topic. However, reading through the report there are a few things that stood out to me. Throughout the section about energy, the report mentioned several times the importance of extracting fossil fuels to decrease Ireland's dependencies on other countries for oil etc. I understand this approach however, I feel Ireland needs to start focusing a lot more on moving away from fossil fuels. In searching for oil and gas off Ireland's shores we are just committing to continued use of these resources. If we were to discover significant reserves of oil or gas, I find it unlikely that we would be as eager to move to renewable energy.

The process of drilling, refining and transporting these resources produce massive amounts of greenhouse gasses and have other huge impacts on the environment. Even thinking financially, we are falling well short of meeting our targets for the Paris agreement, if we continue on this way the EU will begin to sue Ireland around €500 million annually for failing to comply with the agreement.