The Department received 173 responses to the consultation from a broad range of stakeholders, including members of the public, coastal community groups, environmental NGOs, sports bodies, stakeholder representative bodies, fisheries organisations, energy providers, Local Authorities, public sector bodies, political representatives and parties, and higher education bodies.

Topics Cited by Respondents

As expected, a broad range of issues have been addressed in submissions. A preliminary analysis shows that the topics most frequently mentioned were the marine environment (53% of respondents), ports/harbours/shipping (44%), and nature conservation (41%). Other issues raised in many submissions include consents and licensing (34%), renewable energy (34%), aquaculture (31%), fisheries (28%), seaweed harvesting (23%), cultural heritage and assets (23%).

Climate change and how the NMPF could contribute to Ireland’s climate change mitigation and adaptation measures was also one of the most frequently raised issues (42%).

On the zoning issue, respondents were asked to indicate if they preferred a zoning approach, policy-based approach or a hybrid of both. Of the 57 respondents who expressed a preference for one approach over another, 44% favoured a policy-led plan, 40% elected for a hybrid model, and 16% indicated a preference for zoning.

Breakdown of Responses by Topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Environment</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ports, Harbours, Shipping</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Conservation</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation/Enforcement/Review</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consents and Licensing</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Context</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewables</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linkage with Land Planning</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Assessments</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisheries</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport and Recreation</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Heritage and Assets</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seaweed Harvesting</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Ocean Wealth</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Plan Objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brexit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seascapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carbon Capture and Storage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Erosion/Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offshore Gas Storage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transmission Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste Water Treatment and Disposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defence and National Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Aggregates</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunications Cables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>44%*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hybrid</td>
<td>40%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>16%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Of those who expressed a preference in response to the spatial designation question