

Why not do marine planning & development right?

Sustainable or not?
Legally Compliant or not?

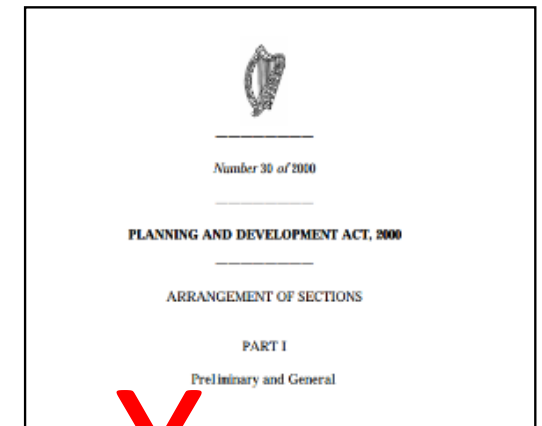
Attracta Uí Bhroin
Environmental Law Officer, IEN
Vice President, EEB



Planning in a Marine Context

“Life Planning but not as we know it Jim”

- 31 Local Authorities County Development Plans x 10 ?



The Requirement and Ireland's response

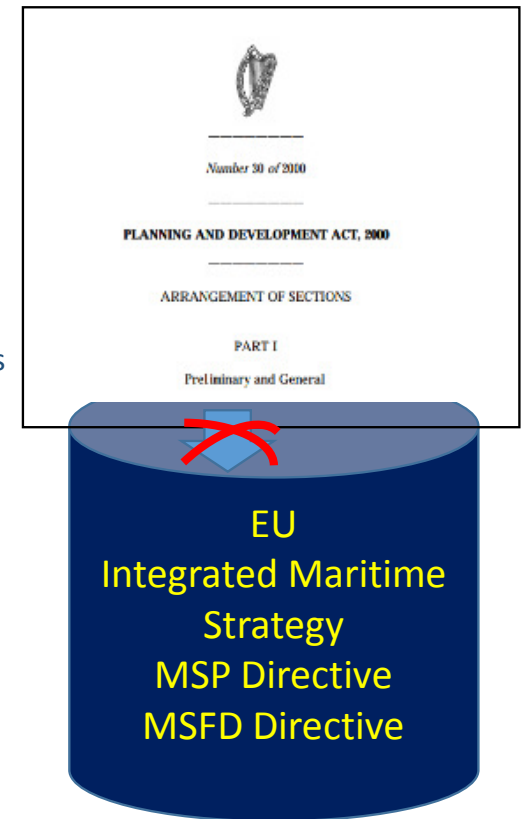
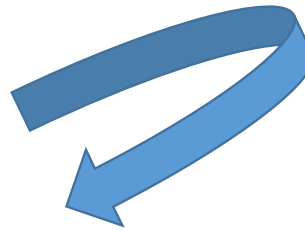
- **Maritime Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU**
 - **1. Maritime spatial planning**
 - IRL
 - **Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018**
 - **Marine Planning and Development Management Bill**
 - **2. Maritime spatial plan**
 - **IRL: Draft National Marine Planning Framework**
- **Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC** : Ecosystems Based Approach : Good Environmental Status

Report Card?

- Major issues of concern regarding the compliance of Ireland's approach
- Where's the spatial and temporal plan of existing and future uses and activities?
- Departures from the methodology and requirements and standards specified in the Directive!
- Usability!
- Aquaculture & Fisheries!
- Marine Protected Area's MPAs - paddy last!

Consequences?

- A compliant plan is there to protect the wider public interest
- Implications for consents granted in the absence of a compliant plan



The goose that lays a golden egg = whales



A 2019 [report](#) in the magazine of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated that “each great whale sequesters 33 tons of CO₂ on average, taking that carbon out of the atmosphere for centuries.” Rebuilding populations of large baleen whales would store carbon in their bodies equivalent to the amount in 110,000 hectares (272,000 acres) of forest, “an area the size of the Rocky Mountain National Park,” in Colorado, U.S., the authors of a 2010 [paper](#) in *PLOS ONE* calculated.

- ✓ Carbon Sequestration
- ✓ Oxygen Production
- ✓ Wider Ecosystems Services for marine health



Anthropogenic sound in marine can be fatal

“Since 2008 there have been four mass strandings of beaked whales and other species, originating probably from within the Irish EEZ.”

“If we take the findings of Peltier et al (2012) that **8% of animals that die at sea, end up being found stranded on the shore**, then the death of some **60+ Cuvier’s beaked whales** represents the death in reality of probably some **750+ animals** from the Irish population.”

“If we then refer to the Article 17 reports of the government (NPWS, 2019) we have a **maximum** population of 1,221 Cuvier’s beaked whales in Irish waters. **Losing over 750 represents a population loss of over 60%**. The cause of this biodiversity loss is linked to a sudden event, with loss of other species as well. Natural causes have been excluded by Dr Andrew Brownlow as a cause.”

IWDG submission to CoDF review.

Whales as marine ecosystem engineers

“The decline in great whale numbers, estimated to be at least 66% and perhaps as high as 90%, has likely altered the structure and function of the oceans, but recovery is possible” *Roman et al 2014*



Offshore renewable wind?

No thanks for **Green Washing** lets make it truly sustainable

- 5 GW ... 30 GW continental level of supply
- Implications for Coastal Communities & Sustainable Activities
- Implications for marine and planetary health
- Need to get the balance right
- We need a win win here – not a win for corporates at the expense of electorate
 - Urgent need to build in generous interim protection & sensitivity
 - Rigorous implementation & enforcement of Art 12 Habitats Directive protecting each individual cetacean, their breeding and resting places
 - MPA's cannot be paddy last!
 - Invest in studies
- Don't let this slip by you - please

Thank You

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