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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC

Article 18

Interim Progress Report on the Implementation of the Programme of Measures

September 2019

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

housing.gov.ie



Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
European Commission evaluation of Member States Programmes of Measures	6
Progress Report Methodology	6
List of measures requiring reporting by category	10
Distribution of measures across descriptors and categories	13
Reporting Process	15
Progress on Implementation of Measures	17
Progress on 1B Measures (not related to WFD)	19
Progress on measures that build on existing EU legislation or international agreements but go beyond what is already required under these (type 2A)	31
Progress on measures which do not build on existing EU legislation or international agreements (type 2B)	33
Conclusion	35
Annex 1 – Full List of the 203 Measures as reported under MSFD Article 13.	37
Annex 2 – 55 Measures included in Article 18 Interim Reporting	50

Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
AFMD	Agriculture Foreshore Marine Department
BAT	Best Available Technique
BEP	Best Environmental Practice
BIM	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
CEMP	Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
EU CIS	European Union Common Implementation Strategy
DAFM	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine
DCCAIE	Department of Communications, Climate, Action and Environment
DCF	Data Collection Framework
DCHG	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DHPLG	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
DTTAS	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
EC	European Commission
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
EP	European Parliament
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene
EU	European Union
EUMAP	European Union Monitoring and Advocacy Program
FEE	Foundation for Environmental Education
FFL	Fishing for Litter
FIPS	Fishery Improvement Projects
GES	Good Environmental Status
HASEC	Hazardous Substances & Eutrophication Committee
HD	Habitats Directive
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
INFOMAR	Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of Ireland's Marine Resource
LCPA	List of Chemicals for Priority Action
LSPC	Lists of Substances of Possible Concern
MCRS	Minimum Conservation Reference Size
MI	Marine Institute
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NLPMS	National Litter Pollution Monitoring System
NM	Nautical Mile
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NWPP	National Waste Prevention Programme
OREDPA	Offshore Renewal Energy Development Plan



OSPAR	Convention for the protection of the marine environment of the Northeast Atlantic
PET	Protected, Endangered and Threatened
PETS	Protected, Endangered and Threatened Species
PoMs	Programme of Measures
RAP	Regional Action Plan
RSS	Responsibly Sourced Standard
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SI	Statutory Instrument
SPA	Special Protection Area
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WISE	Water Information System for Europe



Executive Summary

This report is a progress update on Ireland's implementation of its Programme of Measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The Programme of Measures (PoMs) is a collective set of actions designed to achieve or maintain the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Irish marine environment. The report forms part of the process within the directive and is referred to as the *Article 18 report*.

In June 2016, Ireland compiled and reported 203 individual measures in its Programmes of Measures. To date **almost 9 in 10 (177)** of these measures have been fully implemented. The remaining **26** measures are in the process of being implemented. There are no measures that have not commenced implementation.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is implemented in a coordinated way by the EU member states and the European Commission. This coordination is known as the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS). The progress reporting guidance document issued through the CIS requires that a sub-total of **55** measures need a progress report. The remaining measures, are already accepted as being fully implemented or are reported under other processes such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD) or the Habitats Directive (HD). This group of 55 measures is divided as follows:

- Implemented: **29** measures
- Implementation underway: **26** measures

These 26 Measures in the *Implementation underway* category fall into one of two groups:

- A. 4 Measures which will have implementation completed over the coming years up to 2026.
- B. 22 Measures which have ongoing implementation and no specified completion date. These instruments include amongst others the Birds Directive, Habitats Directive, OSPAR Commission and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Ballast Water Convention. The implementation of these measures is an on-going commitment.

In July 2018 the EU Commission published an assessment of the effectiveness of member states' PoMs. Ireland was in the top three member states (with Germany and the Netherlands) having 77% of all measures being deemed appropriate, 23% as partially appropriate and with no inappropriate measures.

The combined efforts of 4 Government Departments and 7 Government Agencies led by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) have ensured that Ireland is well on course to maintain or achieve GES and ensure adequate protection of Ireland's marine environment.



Introduction

This report documents the progress Ireland has made on the implementation of the PoM's since 2016.

Directive 2008/56/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (known as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive or MSFD for short) was adopted on 17 June 2008 and it was transposed in to Irish law in June 2011 under S.I. 249 of 2011¹. The Directive requires European Union member states to achieve or maintain good environmental status (GES) in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest. Good environmental status in the marine environment means that the seas are clean, healthy and productive and that human use of the marine environment is kept at a sustainable level.

Annex I of the directive provides a set of eleven qualitative descriptors for use in the determination of GES under Art. 9 (Table 1). These descriptors also play an important role in the development of environmental targets, monitoring programmes and the PoMs. This report references the measures as they relate to the different descriptors.

Table 1: Qualitative descriptors for determining GES (from MSFD Annex I).

No.	Short name	MSFD Annex I text
D1	Biodiversity	Biological diversity is maintained. The quality and occurrence of habitats and the distribution and abundance of species are in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climatic conditions.
D2	Non-indigenous species (NIS)	Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystems.
D3	Commercial fish and shellfish	Populations of all commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock.
D4	Food webs	All elements of the marine food webs, to the extent that they are known, occur at normal abundance and diversity and levels capable of ensuring the long-term abundance of the species and the retention of their full reproductive capacity.
D5	Eutrophication	Human-induced eutrophication is minimised, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algae blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters.
D6	Sea-floor integrity	Sea-floor integrity is at a level that ensures that the structure and functions of the ecosystems are safeguarded and benthic ecosystems, in particular, are not adversely affected.
D7	Hydrographical conditions	Permanent alteration of hydrographical conditions does not adversely affect marine ecosystems.
D8	Contaminants	Concentrations of contaminants are at levels not giving rise to pollution effects.
D9	Contaminants in seafood	Contaminants in fish and other seafood for human consumption do not exceed levels established by Community legislation or other relevant standards.

¹ <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/si/249/made/en/print#>



No.	Short name	MSFD Annex I text
D10	Litter	Properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment.
D11	Energy, including underwater noise	Introduction of energy, including underwater noise, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment.

The qualitative descriptors can be characterised as relating to:

- Particular aspects of marine ecosystem state (which are potentially subject to any or multiple pressures): D1 (biodiversity), D3 (commercial fish and shellfish), D4 (food webs) and D6 (sea-floor integrity);
- Particular anthropogenic pressures (which can potentially affect any aspect of marine ecosystem state): D2 (non-indigenous species), D5 (eutrophication), D7 (hydrographical conditions), D8 (contaminants), D9 (contaminants in seafood), D10 (litter) and D11 (energy, including underwater noise).

Article 18 of the MSFD requires that within 3 years of the publication of the Programmes of Measures (PoMs) an interim report describing progress on the implementation of the programme is submitted to the EU Commission. This ensures that any challenges faced by member states in implementing their measures can be assessed and other actions developed, at national, regional or community level.

The MSFD implementation cycle takes 6 years to complete and covers different stages every two years with a reporting commitment to the EU Commission. The different stages are set out in the Directive and covered by different articles (see below). Ireland undertook the first cycle of MSFD between 2011 and 2016 with the following outputs:

- April 2013: The Initial Assessment of the condition of the marine environment was completed and reported. This incorporated an Assessment of the Marine Environment (Article 8), Determination of Good Environmental Status (Article 9) and Establishing Environmental Targets and Indicators (Article 10)
- March 2015: The Monitoring Programme (Article 11) was developed and reported.
- June 2016: The Programmes of Measures (Article 13) was developed and reported.

Each stage in the process involved publication of the proposals, stakeholder participation and a standstill public consultation process.

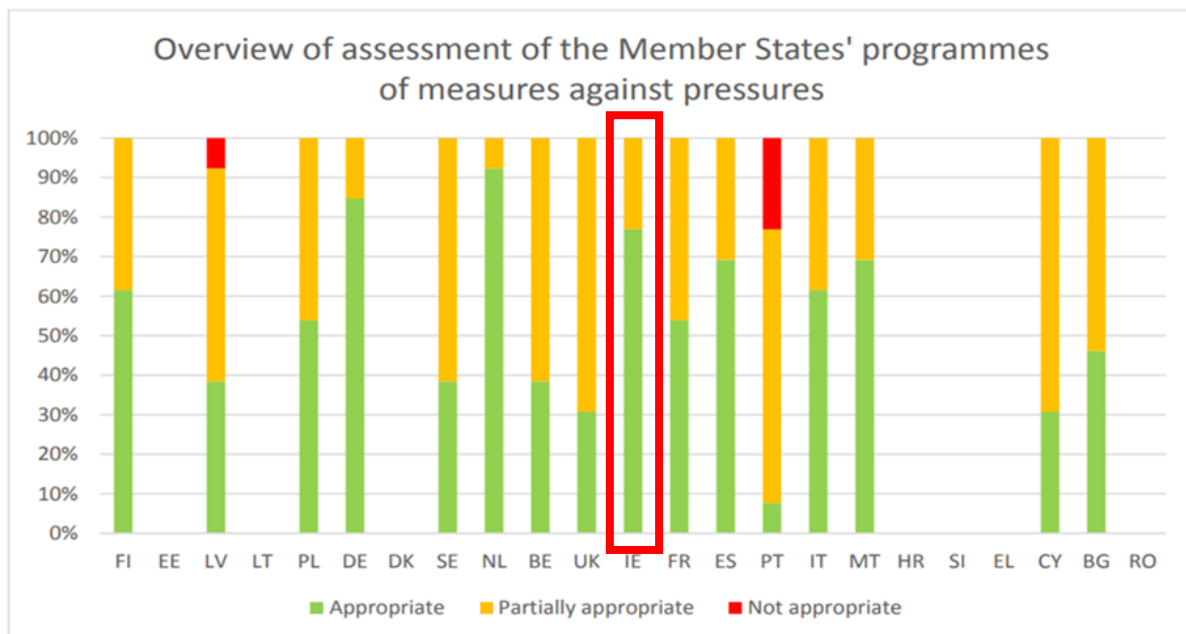
The Irish MSFD Programme of Measures describes 203 management actions (known as measures) that either are in place or need to be implemented. These measures control and regulate human activity and its impact on the marine environment. They are designed to ensure that Ireland can meet the environmental targets published under Article 10 of the directive and in turn achieve or maintain good environmental status in Ireland's marine water by 2020. The full list of these measures is in Annex 1 to this report.



European Commission evaluation of Member States Programmes of Measures

The Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council under Article 16 of the directive assessing Member States' Programmes of Measures was published in July 2018². This report evaluates the appropriateness of measures against pressures for each member state and considers the coherence within the marine regions. Ireland was ranked 3rd overall with 77% of measures considered appropriate and remaining 23% of measures considered partially appropriate. Most importantly, none of Ireland's 203 measures were considered not appropriate. This highlights the coherence of the Irish implementation of the directive and shows a strong connection between the Programme of Measures and how they address the Initial Assessment of the marine environment and the environmental targets reported in 2013.

Figure 1: Appropriateness of Member State measures against pressures³



Progress Report Methodology

In June 2016 Ireland published and reported a total of 203 measures in its PoMs. The development of the PoMs was the final stage in the first cycle of the directive and put in place a set of measures to address the pressures on the Irish marine environment. This section explains the process and reasoning behind how the progress report was compiled.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2018:562:FIN&qid=1533034580736>

³ Taken from figure 2 page 18 of COM (2018) 562 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2018:562:FIN&qid=1533034580736>



Measures types and categories

In order to evaluate the different types of measures reported by the member states the EU CIS process produced a guidance document known as *MSFD Guidance Document 12*⁴. The guidance provides advice on the different modes of action that measures may take and sets out different categories for measures based on whether they are existing or new measures. The types of measures based on their mode of action does not form part of the reporting but can be helpful in understanding how the management actions take effect. This guidance can help compare the progress on implementation across member states.

1. Technical: an actual action that one can see (and measure) in the field. In principle a wide range of measures have a primarily technical mode of action.
2. Legislative: adapting or supplementing national environmental law and other national legislation influencing the marine environment to implement environmental targets and to achieve/maintain GES.
3. Economic: such as economic incentives that provide financial motives to stimulate a desired behaviour or discouraging an unwanted behaviour. Financial instruments are often aimed at the uptake of technical measures.
4. Policy driven: policy instruments can be economic incentives, but also other instruments, such as voluntary agreements with stakeholders, communication strategies, awareness raising, and education. For example, a government launches an information campaign to make the beach resorts aware of the new subsidy they can get for placing more garbage bins, or beach resorts informing their customers where the litter bins are located, or teachers telling children it is fun to collect waste and put it in a litter bin and gives you a clean beach as well.

The categories of measures set out in the EU CIS guidance document and on which this report is based are known as category 1 and category 2 measures. These are subdivided further into categories 1A & 1B and categories 2A & 2B. The subdivisions are based on the requirements set out in the part of the directive that deals with measures (Articles 13 & 14).

Table 2: Categories of Measures

Category	Description	Action required for this progress report
1A	Articles 13(1) & 13(2) Measures relevant for the maintenance and achievement of GES under the MSFD that <u>have been adopted under other policies and implemented</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reporting is required
1B	Articles 13(1) & 13(2) Measures relevant for the maintenance and achievement of GES under the MSFD that <u>have been adopted under</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFD related measures to be reported under that directive and are not reported in this report.

⁴ <https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/msfd/Guidance/GD12%20-%20Guidance%20on%20Art%2013-14-18%20Reporting.pdf>



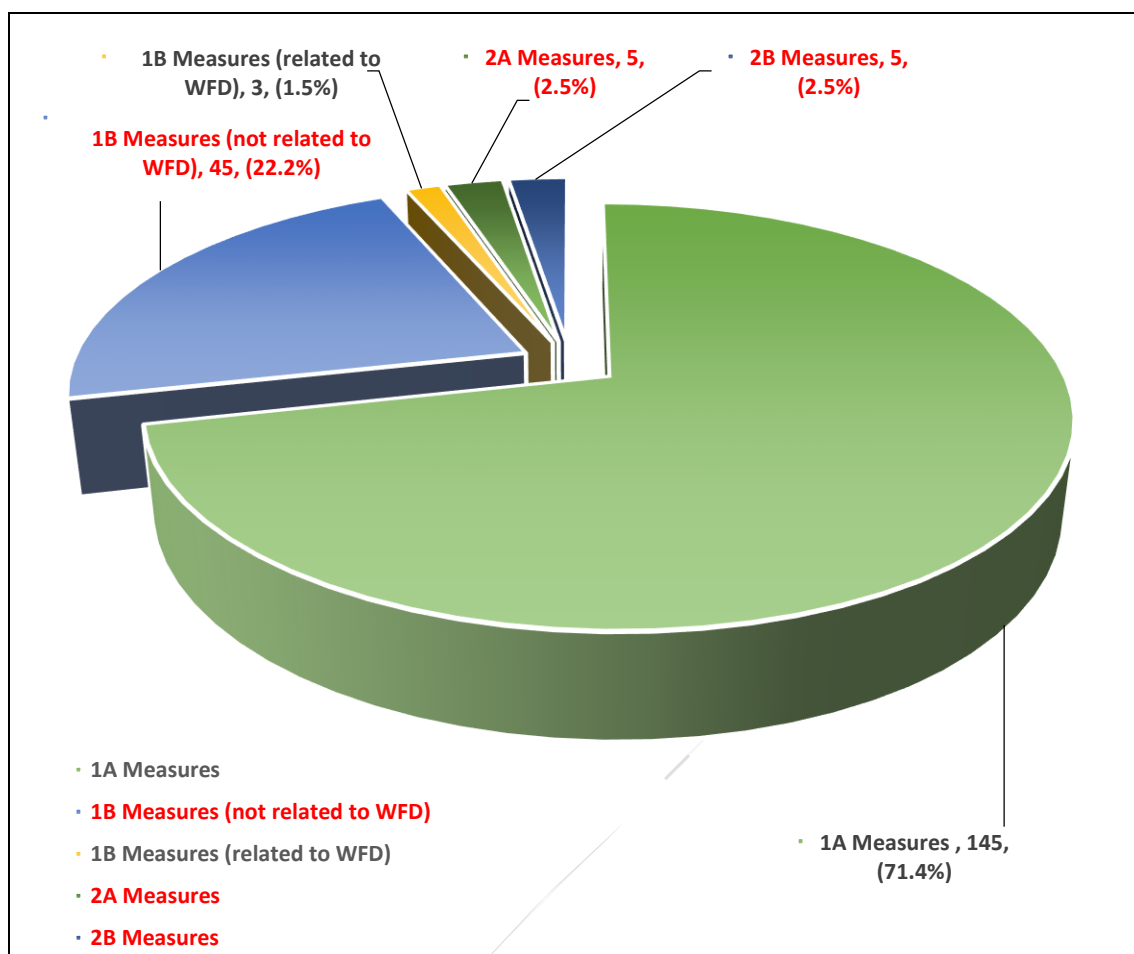
Category	Description	Action required for this progress report
	<u>other policies but that have not yet been implemented or fully implemented</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-WFD related measures are reported under and are grouped by descriptor • Where reporting is in place under other EU Legislation (Habitats Directive, Common Fisheries Policy (CFP); under Regional Sea Conventions and possibly under other international frameworks such as International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) then for Article 18 reporting, links will have to be established to relevant implementation reporting
2A	Article 13(3) Additional measures to achieve GES which build on existing EU legislation and international agreements but go beyond what is already required under these	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting under MSFD Article 18 is required
2B	Article 13(3) Additional measures to achieve GES which do not build on existing EU legislation or international agreements, i.e. that are completely new	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting under MSFD Article 18 is required

The classification exercise was applied to the full list of 203 measures and resulted in the following breakdown:

- Category 1A - **145** Measures that have been adopted under other policies and implemented (**no reporting required**)
- Category 1B - **45** Measures that have been adopted under other policies but that have not yet been implemented or fully implemented and are not related to WFD (**summary report required online**)
- Category 1B - **3** Measures that have been adopted under other policies but that have not yet been implemented or fully implemented and are related to WFD (**no reporting required**)
- Category 2A - **5** Measures which build on existing EU legislation or international agreements but go beyond what is already required under these (**reporting required**)
- Category 2B - **5** Measures which do not build on existing EU legislation or international agreements i.e. that are completely new (**reporting required**)



Figure 2: Breakdown of Measures



27.1% or 55 measures from the full list have been categorised as 1B, 2A or 2B. The progress on implementation of these measures are evaluated and reported in this report.

Different measures fall under the authority of various government departments and agencies. Some measures fall under the remit of more than one authority, as there are multiple strands to a number of the measures. For example, measure M177: *Regulate and appropriately monitor of dredging and disposal under the Foreshore Act 1993 (as amended)* was reviewed by both the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (DHPLG) who have responsibility for foreshore consenting and the EPA who carry out licensing the disposal of dredged material. Progress on implementation of measures was reviewed by;

- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG)
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS)
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE)
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS))
- Marine Institute (MI)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
- An Taisce.

The measures were divided across these authorities to evaluate the current state of play in the implementation of the measures. A detailed list of the measures, responsible authority and the associated descriptors is outlined in Annex 2. Table 3 outlines each of the measures, the responsible authority and the associated Article 18 reporting category.

In February 2019 the DHPLG developed a short 1-page questionnaire based on the guidance from the EU CIS reporting document for the responsible authorities. This was issued in the last week of March 2019 with a reply return date of 10 May 2019. A reminder was sent on 8 May 2019 and follow up contact was made with departments and agencies who had not already replied. Final replies were returned in July 2019. During this process, there was ongoing bilateral contact to support the responsible authorities in completing the questionnaire.

List of measures requiring reporting by category

Table 3: Measures, responsible authority and category

Measure	Responsible authority	Cat.
M002: Continue to apply the Natura Directives (Birds Directive [2009/147/EC] and Habitats Directive [92/43/EEC]) and associated national regulations as laid down in S.I. No. 477/2011 – European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.	DCHG/NPWS	1B
M006: Continue the protection of wild bird species through the designation of Ireland’s network of Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC).	DCHG/NPWS	1B
M007: Update regional lists of protected plant species and propose protection status for other species and habitats on the scale of the marine subregion.	DHPLG	1B
M008: Continued implementation of OSPAR recommendations for Threatened and/or Declining habitats and species.	DHPLG	1B
M009: To continue to investigate the distribution of habitats through seabed surveys and monitoring through initiatives such as the Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of Ireland’s MARine Resource (INFOMAR) Programme.	MI	2B
M010: To continue to report data on habitat distribution to the OSPAR habitat-mapping database.	DHPLG	1B
M015: Awareness and training of best practices in maritime and coastal activities and preservation of the marine environment.	DHPLG	2B
M016: Continue to ensure coherence of Ireland's network of marine protected areas by setting up increased protection areas using tools such as habitat protection orders, no-take zones etc.	DHPLG	2A



Measure	Responsible authority	Cat.
M017: To continue to consider whether sites justify selection as Marine Protected Areas.	DHPLG	1B
M019: Develop a national strategy to create and manage Ireland's network of Marine Protected Areas.	DHPLG	2A
M033: To apply guidance in place for carrying out activities (e.g. pile driving, seismic survey) in Irish marine waters which have the potential to kill, injure or disturb a marine European species (i.e. any cetacean or bird species).	DCHG/NPWS	1B
M034: Promote wildlife watching Codes of Practice to minimise risk of disturbance to marine wildlife including birds and mammals.	DCHG/NPWS	1B
M035: Continue to implement Ireland's Cetacean Conservation Plan.	DCHG/NPWS	1B
M036: Continue the National Marine Mammal By-catch Monitoring Programme.	MI	1B
M037: Manage the risk posed by sea fisheries to protected cetaceans in accordance with the Risk Assessment for Special Areas of Conservation.	DCHG/NPWS DAFM	1B
M039: Complete the designation process for proposed Special Areas of Conservation for harbour porpoise and bottle nosed dolphin in Irish waters.	DCHG/NPWS	1B
M044: Continue to develop fishery closure areas and seasonal closures in conjunction with the Regional Groups of Member States and Advisory Councils based on the best available advice.	DAFM	1B
M045: Continue to examine and develop, where appropriate, closures of spawning and nursery grounds to preserve sensitive stocks at the national level, where sites are within the 6 nautical mile limit, and at the EU level.	DAFM	1B
M050: Promote the use of selective fishing gear in order to reduce high levels of unwanted catches and to gradually eliminate discards.	BIM	1B
M051: Promote activities that reduce catch of juvenile fish (e.g. avoidance of nursery/spawning grounds and juvenile fish aggregations). Supporting technical measures may include regulation of net size.	BIM	1B
M052: To continue to examine and develop, where appropriate, the use of different types of fishing gear at the national level within the 6 nautical mile limit, and at the EU level.	DAFM	1B
M053: To develop and implement fishery management measures for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at national level where sites are within the 6 nautical mile limit and at regional EU level for MPAs outside the 6 nautical mile limit.	DAFM	1B
M054: To deliver compliance with legislation which prohibits the removal of shark fins at sea and other measures which support the conservation of elasmobranch species.	SFPA	1B
M059: Continue to manage the impacts of sea-fisheries and aquaculture in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.	DCHG/NPWS DAFM	1B
M061: Ensure that operators restore shellfish growing areas once production ends.	DAFM	1B
M062: Continue to implement the EU fishery management measures for the protection of relevant habitats included on the OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining list.	MI	1B
M063: Continue to implement the EU fishery management measures for the protection of relevant species included on the OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining list.	MI	1B



Measure	Responsible authority	Cat.
M066: Apply Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as appropriate.	DHPLG	1B
M067: Implementation of Directive 2013/30/EU on safety of offshore oil and gas operations within Irish Legislation. This ensures protection of the marine environment through implementation of safety measures/mechanisms for offshore oil and gas operations. This includes, inter alia, as per Article 8 of Directive 2013/30/EU, the appointment of the Commission of Energy Regulation (CER) as the competent authority responsible for regulatory functions in this regard.	DCCAE	1B
M071: Continue to develop invasive species action plans. Implement commitment to develop an (Aquaculture) Industry Code of Practice for Invasive Alien Species.	BIM	1B
M075: The implementation of the Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.	DCHG/NPWS	1B
M078: Upon the ratification of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Ballast Water Convention and its implementation under Irish law by statute Ireland will apply IMO and OSPAR Guidelines for the control and management of ship's ballast water to minimise the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens.	DTTAS	1B
M104: To continue to work with the National Inshore Fisheries Forum to develop inshore fisheries policy within 6 nautical miles.	BIM	1B
M108: Implement national restrictions on fishing vessels participating in the scallop fishery, as follows. Vessels greater than or equal to 10m Length Overall must hold an Authorisation in order to retain on board or land a quantity of Scallop that is greater than 10% by live weight of the total quantity of all species of fish retained on board or landed on that occasion. To qualify for an Authorisation, a vessel must either have: (i) carried out scallop fishing activity for at least 50 days at sea in the two and a half years up to 30 June 2005, or (ii) have sourced 100% replacement capacity from a vessel(s) which carried out scallop fishing activity for at least 50 days at sea in the two and a half years up to 30 June 2005.	DAFM	1B
M127: Develop sector specific guidance documentation and regional strategy plans for renewable energy growth and impact control.	DCCAE	1B
M130: Develop and implement marine plans for all of Irish waters by 31st March 2021 at the latest.	DHPLG	1B
M149: Ensure dredging plans are incorporated into port master plans.	DTTAS	1B
M150: Implement the OSPAR Hazardous Substances Strategy.	DHPLG	1B
M151: Progressively implement the OSPAR Offshore Oil and Gas Industry Strategy.	DCCAE	1B
M152: Implement OSPAR Decision 2000/2 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use and Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals (as amended by OSPAR Decision 2005/1).	DCCAE	1B
M153: Implement the OSPAR Recommendation 2005/2 on environmental goals for the use and discharge of OSPAR Priority Chemicals.	DCCAE	1B
M154: Apply OSPAR Recommendation 2006/3 on environmental goals for the phasing-out of discharges of substances identified as candidates for substitution.	DCCAE	1B



Measure	Responsible authority	Cat.
M155: Implement OSPAR Recommendation 2001/1 for the Management of Produced Water from Offshore Installations (as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2006/4).	DCCAE	1B
M156: Implement OSPAR Recommendation 2003/5 promoting the use and implementation of environmental management systems by the offshore industry.	DCCAE	1B
M177: Regulate and appropriately monitor of dredging and disposal under the Foreshore Act 1993 (as amended)	DHPLG	1B
M187: To continue to implement the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	DHPLG	1B
M189: To continue efforts to improve business attitudes and behaviours around marine and coastal litter	DHPLG	1B
M194: To promote the use of the National Environmental Complaints Line and the reporting of environmental pollution, fly-tipping and illegal dumping of waste; including the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, funded by DECLG, including www.litter.ie .	DCCAE	1B
M206: Maintain and expand the Fishing for Litter Scheme.	BIM	2A
M207: Continue to promote and support An Taisce's programme on Ocean Literacy.	DHPLG	2A
M212: To continue to apply the BIM Responsibly Sourced Standard for wild capture fisheries.	BIM	2B
M213: To continue to raise awareness to tackle the sources of litter through the international environmental education programme Eco-Schools. This includes developing an international Eco-School module on marine litter with the Celtic Seas Partnership, Eco Schools (FEE - Copenhagen) and An Taisce.	An Taisce	2B
M214: On-going implementation of the #2minutebeachclean / #Glantra2noimead initiative and expansion across all blue flag beaches in Ireland.	DHPLG	2B
M223: To establish and maintain a register of noise in the Irish Marine Assessment Area.	DHPLG	2A
M225: To apply the IMO I817:2014 Code On Noise Levels On Board Ships.	DTTAS	1B

Distribution of measures across descriptors and categories

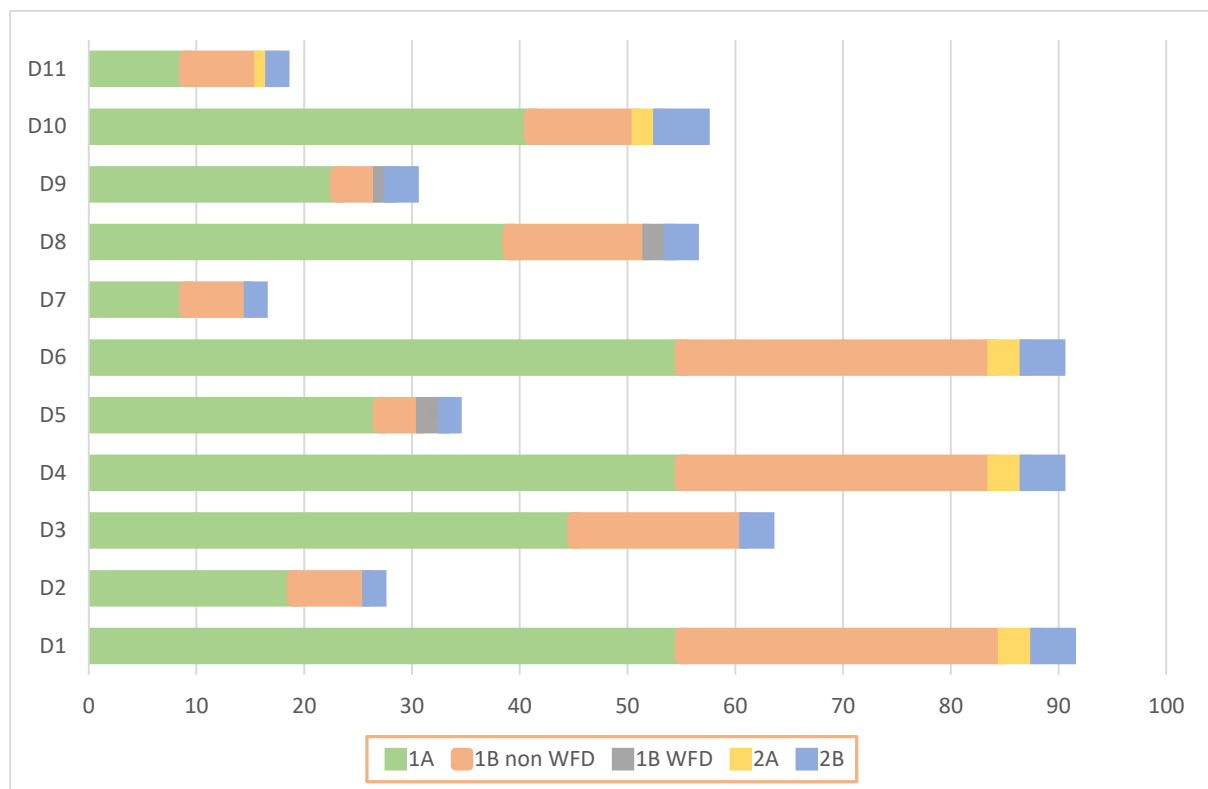
An analysis of the measures across the descriptors highlights that the distribution is not uniform and that many measures act to address multiple pressures. The distribution of measures per descriptor ranges from a high of 91 for descriptor 1 (Biological Diversity) to 16 for descriptor 7 (Hydrographical Conditions). The overlap in the applicability of measures is evident for the biodiversity related descriptors (1, 4 & 6) with 50 measures addressing all three descriptors as well as different pressure descriptors. The overlap arises from the fact that measures can act to address both the state of and pressures on the marine environment; for example, measure M158 deals with the regulation of dredging and dumping at sea. It addresses the quality of biodiversity and the sea floor (D1, D4 & D6) and pressures from dredged materials (D8 & D10). There are 9 crosscutting measures that are applicable across all 11 descriptors⁵ and 28 measures that are common to 5 or more of the descriptors.

⁵ See Annex 1 for full description of all measures.



The breakdown of measures across the reporting Categories 1A, 1B non-WFD, 1B WFD, 2A and 2B was also evaluated for each descriptor. Figure 3 shows the breakdown of measures for each category across the descriptors.

Figure 3: Number of Measures per Descriptor, Categorised into 1A, 1B non-WFD, 1B WFD, 2A & 2B



Category 1A measures (those adopted under other policies and fully implemented) show the highest numbers for areas such as biodiversity (D1, 4 & 6), commercial fisheries (D3), hazardous substances (D8) and eutrophication (D5) that have established regulatory frameworks such as Habitats Directive, CFP, Water Framework Directive and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the associated measures have been implemented.

Category 1B non-WFD measures (those adopted under other policies and are either implementation started or implemented) is the next largest category of measures. These highlight the on-going implementation of existing policy areas and build on earlier work

Measures that go beyond what is already required under existing EU legislation and international agreements (Category 2A) and completely new measures that do not build on existing legislation (Category 2B) cover descriptors where increased knowledge and awareness of emerging pressures are identified. These include marine litter (D10) and



underwater noise (D11) and where further work is required to address the state of the environment (D1, 4 & 6).

Reporting Process

The progress report for Article 18 of the directive comprises this descriptive report and a web-based electronic report. The electronic reporting is in the form of an .xml file, which is completed on the EU Commission's portal (<https://webforms.eionet.europa.eu/>). The web forms were pre-populated by the Commission with the full list of 203 measures and their corresponding descriptors as reported in 2016. Using the information and data received the pre-populated web forms have been updated with implementation progress in line with the replies from the responsible authorities. Figures 4, 5 and 6 contain examples of the web reporting format for each of the categories 1A, 1B, 2A & 2B.

Categories 1A and 1B (related to the WFD)

These measures had no mandatory fields to in the web form. A quality check was carried out on the pre-populated data; no errors were encountered.

Figure 4: Sample report - categories 1A and 1B (related to the WFD)

>	ACSIE-M135	Continue to enforce River Basin Management Plans of which measures include legally binding codes of practice detailing storage requirements and nutrient controls (closed periods for manure spreading).	1a	D5 Eutrophication	Copy Delete
>	ACSIE-M136	Set up and run pollution prevention awareness campaigns, which provide targeted advice and information to householders and those in high risk areas on all rural diffuse pollution issues, in order to prevent and reduce chemicals from entering surface waters and groundwater.	1b (related to WFD)	D5 Eutrophication D8 Contaminants	Copy Delete

Category 1B (not related to the WFD)

The measures in this category were grouped by the GES descriptor they related to. Mandatory fields for completion were only required to be completed once per descriptor.



Figure 5: Category 1B (not related to WFD) grouped by GES descriptor

Category 1b measures NOT related to the WFD

The measures in the category 1b measures NOT related to the WFD are grouped by descriptors in the tables below.

D1 Biodiversity / D4 Food webs / D6 Sea-floor integrity

Category 1b measures NOT related to the WFD for D1 Biodiversity / D4 Food webs / D6 Sea-floor integrity. Please, fill the different fields for this group.

Progress in implementation *

Measure withdrawn *

Year of implementation *

Delay *

Other obstacles *

Brief description of progress

There are 30 Measures in this category under Descriptors 1, 4 and 6. Of these 15 Measures are implemented and the remaining 15 Measures are implementation started.

- Measures Implemented:
- [M002](#) was implemented in 2015
- [M033](#) was implemented in 2014
- [M034](#) was implemented in 2005
- [M035](#) was implemented in 2009
- [M037](#) was implemented in 2013

In the table below you can check and add the measures belonging to this group. If you do not agree with having or not having a measure in this group select 'Yes' in the 'Disagree' column and provide the respective comments. Member States who only used category 1 in their PoMs can provide a comment on why the 1b measures are not WFD related, if they so wish.

#	Measure Code	Measure Name	Comments	Disagree	MS Comments
	<input type="text" value="ACSIE-M002"/>	Complete the identification of Special Areas of Conservation by the end of 2015.		<input type="text" value="No"/>	<input type="text"/>

Categories 2A and 2B

The measures in these categories required mandatory information in the web form including Code, Measure Name, Category, Descriptor, Progress, Year of implementation and description.



Figure 6: Category 2A and 2B measures

▼	ACSIE-M223	To establish and maintain a register of noise in the Irish Marine Assessment Area.	2a	D11 Energy, incl. underwater noise
Measure Code *	<input type="text" value="ACSIE-M223"/>			
Measure Name *	<input type="text" value="To establish and maintain a register of noise in the Irish Marine Assessment Area."/>			
Category of measure *	<input type="text" value="2a"/>			
MSFD Descriptor number *	<input type="text" value="D11 Energy, incl. underwater noise"/>			<input type="button" value="+"/>
Progress in implementation *	<input type="text" value="Implementation started"/>			
Measure withdrawn *	<input type="text" value="No"/>			
Year of implementation *	<input type="text" value="2018"/>			
Delay *	<input type="text" value="0"/>			
Other obstacles *	<input type="text" value="No"/>			
Brief description of progress	<p>Seismic survey data from 2016 and 2017 was uploaded to the ICES underwater Noise Registry on the 16/11/18. The ICES underwater Noise Register specifically supports OSPAR in providing information to feed regional assessments and in reporting by contracting parties to MSFD descriptor 11</p> <p>This data was provided by DCCAE and reflects conventional seismic surveys and site surveys carried out under permit during 2016 and 2017.</p>			

Progress on Implementation of Measures

The replies provided by the responsible authorities show that all measures have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. Across the full 203 measures, it shows that:

- **177** or 87.2% of the measures have been implemented to date
- **26** or 12.8% of the measures are in the process of being implemented

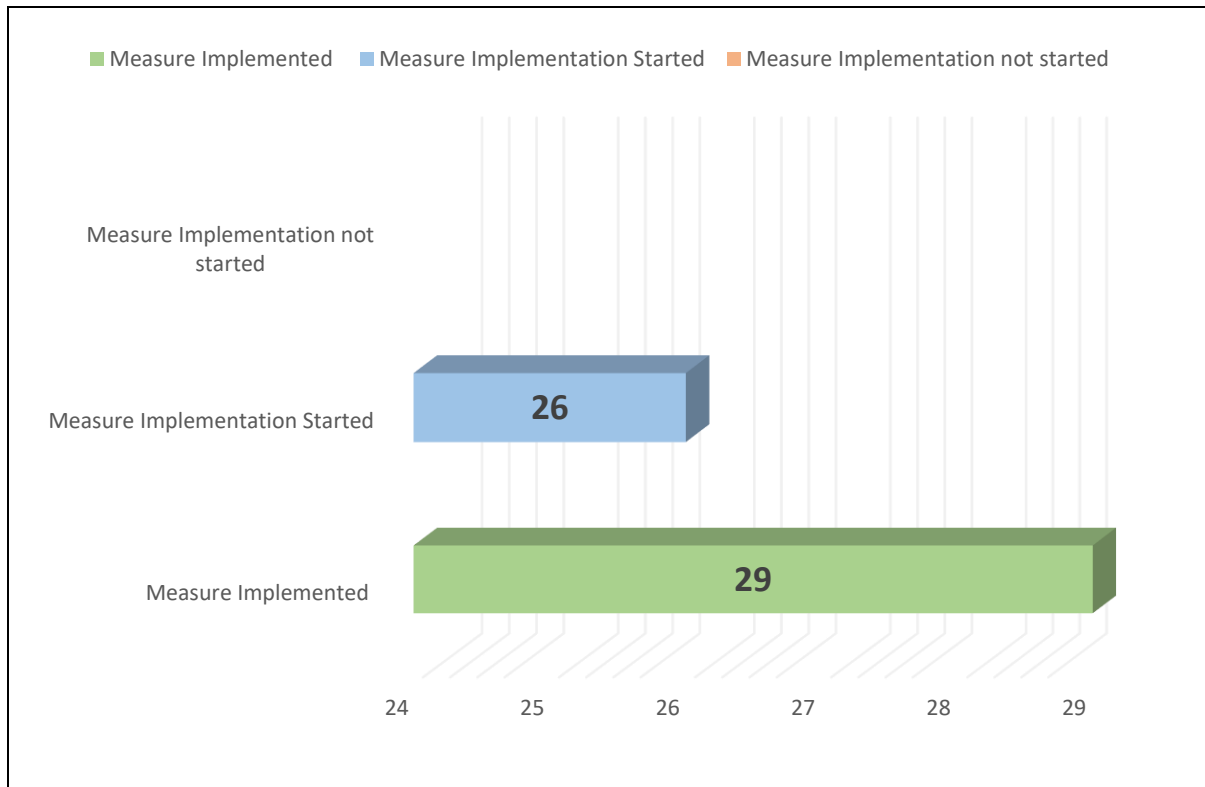
The purpose of the measures is to ensure that Ireland's marine environment achieves or maintains good environmental status (GES). To recognise that all measures are in place or being implemented brings a higher degree of certainty when determining the achievement of GES. It also provides a broad regulatory base for the development of actions in future cycles of the directive.



Of the 55 measures that require reporting all have been implemented or implementation has begun.

- **29** measures or 14.3% of the total have been fully implemented.
- For **26** measures or 12.8% of the total implementation is still ongoing.

Figure 7: Progress on measures requiring reporting under Article 18



The Measures for which implementation is ongoing are considered in two categories:

- (a) those that have a final implementation date to attained
- (b) those that are subject to ongoing implementation and do not have a completion date.

The first group of 4 measures have implementation dates up to and including 2026. These measures and their projected implementation dates are summarised in Table 4.



Table 4: Ongoing measures - assigned completion dates

Measure	Category	Implementation Date
M130: Develop and implement marine plans for all of Irish waters by 31st March 2021 at the latest.	1B	2021
M016: Continue to ensure coherence of Ireland's network of marine protected areas by setting up increased protection areas using tools such as habitat protection orders, no-take zones etc.	2A	2021
M019: Develop a national strategy to create and manage Ireland's network of Marine Protected Areas.	2A	2020
M009: To continue to investigate the distribution of habitats through seabed surveys and monitoring through initiatives such as the Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of Ireland's MARine Resource (INFOMAR) Programme.	2B	2026

The second group of 22 measures are all covered by laws and regulations which are ongoing and do not have final implementation dates. These include:

- Alien Invasive Species Regulations
- Birds Directive
- Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
- Data Collection Framework (DCF)
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
- Habitats Directive
- International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Ballast Water Convention
- Offshore renewable energy development plan (OREDPA)
- OSPAR Commitments ⁶

Measures in this category will continue to be developed and implemented in accordance with the requirements of the various instruments listed. In the second cycle of the directive the review and updating of the Article 13 Programmes of Measures will re-evaluate these ongoing measures.

Progress on 1B Measures (not related to WFD)

45 of the 55 measures are classified as 1B. In 2016 none of these measures had been considered to be fully implemented. By July 2018 over half of these measures (24) have been implemented with the remainder (21) having started implementation (Figure 8). A description of the progress made on these measures is included in Tables 5 and 6.

⁶ OSPAR North East Atlantic Environment Strategy, OSPAR Recommendations, Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) and Marine Litter Action Plan



Figure 8: Progress on Category 1B Measures

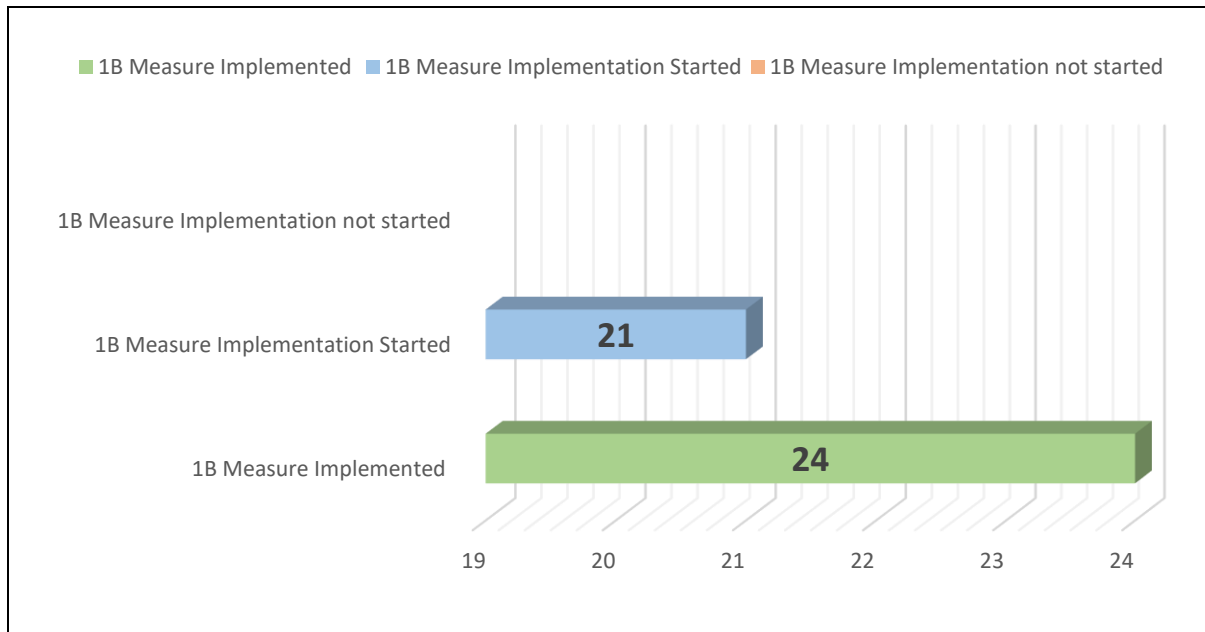


Table 5: 1B Measures Implemented

Measure	Progress Details	Status
M002: Complete the identification of Special Areas of Conservation by the end of 2015.	Ireland has completed the implementation of this measure and the Codling Fault Zone Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 003015 was added to the marine SAC list in 2015 (https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/003015). There is a scientific reserve on Reef habitat and bottlenose dolphin as result of a Marine Sufficiency Biogeographic Seminar in Malta in 2016; however, there are no plans now to designate additional marine SACs.	Implemented
M033: To apply guidance in place for carrying out activities (e.g. pile driving, seismic survey) in Irish marine waters which have the potential to kill, injure or disturb a marine European species (i.e. any cetacean or bird species).	There is a robust regulatory and management regime for seismic exploration in order to avoid potentially significant impacts on all species of marine mammal both within and beyond Natura 2000 sites. Guidelines are provided by NPWS - "Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters". The latest version of this document was published in January 2014 and is available to download from http://www.npws.ie/marine/bestpracticeguidelines	Implemented
M034: Promote wildlife watching Codes of Practice to minimise risk of disturbance to	Guidelines for whale-watching operators were issued in 2005 and are available here:	Implemented



Measure	Progress Details	Status																						
marine wildlife including birds and mammals.	https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/22237/d2598e638ddf4aeca1f88c515b885892.pdf#page=1																							
M035: Continue to implement Ireland's Cetacean Conservation Plan.	Implementation of the Conservation Plan for Cetaceans in Irish Waters (2009) is ongoing e.g. 2018 outputs from the recent multi-annual cetacean monitoring project ObSERVE: https://www.dccae.gov.ie/ObSERVE	Implemented																						
M037: Manage the risk posed by sea fisheries to protected cetaceans in accordance with the Risk Assessment for Special Areas of Conservation.	Monitoring of cetacean bycatch has been mandatory in Data Collection Framework (DCF) observer programmes since 2013. Additional sampling schemes have also taken place since then in fisheries not covered by the DCF, such as some inshore fisheries. The risk posed by sea fisheries to protected cetaceans was assessed in 2015 in the MI Risk Assessment for Species and Habitats in SACs. http://www.fishingnet.ie/media/fishingnet/content/fisherie_sinnaturaareas/siteassessments/southandwestcoasts/MI_Art62RiskAssessmentSouthandWestCoasts071217.pdf	Implemented																						
M039: Complete the designation process for proposed Special Areas of Conservation for harbour porpoise and bottle nosed dolphin in Irish waters.	<p>The selection process for SACs for harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin was completed in 2012 and resulted in formal designation of the following:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="603 1122 1283 1541"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="603 1122 815 1160">Site Code</th> <th data-bbox="815 1122 1283 1160">Site Name</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="603 1160 1283 1198">Bottlenose Dolphin</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1198 815 1236">000328</td> <td data-bbox="815 1198 1283 1236">Slyne Head Islands SAC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1236 815 1274">000495</td> <td data-bbox="815 1236 1283 1274">Duvillaun Islands SAC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1274 815 1312">002074</td> <td data-bbox="815 1274 1283 1312">Slyne Head Peninsula SAC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1312 815 1350">002165</td> <td data-bbox="815 1312 1283 1350">Lower River Shannon SAC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1350 815 1388">002998</td> <td data-bbox="815 1350 1283 1388">West Connacht Coast SAC</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="603 1388 1283 1426">Harbour Porpoise</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1426 815 1464">000101</td> <td data-bbox="815 1426 1283 1464">Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1464 815 1503">002172</td> <td data-bbox="815 1464 1283 1503">Blasket Islands SAC</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1503 815 1541">003000</td> <td data-bbox="815 1503 1283 1541">Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000328 https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000495 https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002074 https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002165 https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002998 https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000101 https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002172 https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/003000</p>	Site Code	Site Name	Bottlenose Dolphin		000328	Slyne Head Islands SAC	000495	Duvillaun Islands SAC	002074	Slyne Head Peninsula SAC	002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	002998	West Connacht Coast SAC	Harbour Porpoise		000101	Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC	002172	Blasket Islands SAC	003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	Implemented
Site Code	Site Name																							
Bottlenose Dolphin																								
000328	Slyne Head Islands SAC																							
000495	Duvillaun Islands SAC																							
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Harbour Porpoise																								
000101	Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC																							
002172	Blasket Islands SAC																							
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC																							
M050: Promote the use of selective fishing gear in order	Selective gears developed by BIM and the Irish Fishing Industry which reduce unwanted catches continue to be	Implemented																						



Measure	Progress Details	Status
to reduce high levels of unwanted catches and to gradually eliminate discards.	funded through EMFF and implemented through their inclusion in the discard plan for North Western Waters. http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2019/si/43/made/en/print# http://www.bim.ie/our-publications/fisheries/	
M051: Promote activities that reduce catch of juvenile fish (e.g. avoidance of nursery/spawning grounds and juvenile fish aggregations). Supporting technical measures may include regulation of net size.	BIM and the Irish Fishing Industry have developed selective fishing gears which reduce juvenile fish catch. This work continues to be funded through EMFF and implemented through the inclusion of these gears in the discard plan for North Western waters. http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2019/si/43/made/en/print#http://www.bim.ie/media/bim/content/publications/BIM_Strategy,2013-2017.pdf	Implemented
M054: To deliver compliance with legislation which prohibits the removal of shark fins at sea and other measures which support the conservation of elasmobranch species.	Ireland has implemented COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1185/2003 of 26 June 2003 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels. There is one case in the court process which stems from a detention of a Spanish registered fishing vessel in August 2018 by the Irish Naval Service. The master has been charged with the removal of Shark fins from the carcass before landing. These are offences under EU Regulation 1185 of 2003 as amended by EU Regulation 605 of 2013. This legislation is implemented by the Sea Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA). https://www.sfpa.ie/Search/resource/431	Implemented
M059: Continue to manage the impacts of sea-fisheries and aquaculture in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.	The impact of sea-fisheries and aquaculture on in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000 sites) is managed and regulated through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 (SI 290 of 2013), which establishes a legal framework for management of sea-fisheries in Natura 2000 areas. • The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477 of 2011) Appropriate Assessments have been completed in respect of 32 bays where aquaculture is underway. These Appropriate Assessments inform the processing of licence applications. In 2018 there were 305 license determinations with a further 300 license determinations on target for 2019.	Implemented



Measure	Progress Details	Status
	https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/aquacultureforeshorelicencesapplications/cork/2019/ApproAssessofAquacultandFisheriesRiskAssessinKenmareRiverSAC270319.pdf	
M061: Ensure that operators restore shellfish growing areas once production ends.	<p>Aquaculture is a licensed activity which is governed by the 1997 Fisheries (Amendment) Act, the 1933 Foreshore Act and applicable EU legislation. Licensees are required to remove all structures associated with aquaculture and have the licensed area on the foreshore restored once production ends. BIM has produced an Environmental Code of Practice for Irish Aquaculture Companies and Traders, which details approaches to minimise the environmental impact of operations in line with international best practices.</p> <p>http://www.bim.ie/media/bim/content/publications/ECOPACT.pdf</p>	Implemented
M066: Apply Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as appropriate.	<p>Ireland transposed Article 38 of Directive 2013/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on safety of offshore oil and gas operations and amending Directive 2004/35/EC through the introduction of the European Communities (Environmental Liability) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. This extends the scope of the regulations to cover the MSFD area. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the designated competent authority in the State for the purposes of these Regulations.</p> <p>http://www.epa.ie/enforcement/liab/</p>	Implemented
M067: Implementation of Directive 2013/30/EU on safety of offshore oil and gas operations within Irish Legislation. This ensures protection of the marine environment through implementation of safety measures/mechanisms for offshore oil and gas operations. This includes, inter alia, as per Article 8 of Directive 2013/30/EU, the appointment of the Commission of Energy	<p>The Electricity Regulation Act 1999 was updated by the Petroleum (Exploration and Extraction) Safety Act 2015, which implemented the Offshore Safety Directive 2013/30/EU. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities is the appointed Competent Authority.</p> <p>https://www.cru.ie/professional/safety/petroleum-safety-framework-2/</p>	Implemented



Measure	Progress Details	Status
Regulation (CER) as the competent authority responsible for regulatory functions in this regard.		
<p>M108: Implement national restrictions on fishing vessels participating in the scallop fishery, as follows.</p> <p>Vessels greater than or equal to 10m Length Overall must hold an Authorisation in order to retain on board or land a quantity of Scallop that is greater than 10% by live weight of the total quantity of all species of fish retained on board or landed on that occasion.</p> <p>To qualify for an Authorisation, a vessel must either have:</p> <p>(i) carried out scallop fishing activity for at least 50 days at sea in the two and a half years up to 30 June 2005, or</p> <p>(ii) have sourced 100% replacement capacity from a vessel(s) which carried out scallop fishing activity for at least 50 days at sea in the two and a half years up to 30 June 2005.</p>	<p>This measure has been fully implemented since 2005. Vessels greater than or equal to 10m Length Overall must hold an authorisation in order to retain on board or land a quantity of Scallop that is greater than 10% by live weight of the total quantity of all species of fish retained on board or landed on that occasion.</p> <p>http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2005/si/245/made/en/print</p>	Implemented
<p>M149: Ensure dredging plans are incorporated into port master plans.</p>	<p>The port companies have included dredging in their masterplans. The port companies carry out both capital dredging (dredging in relation to development of port) and maintenance dredging (dredging essential to the operation of shipping channels). In carrying out such dredging the port companies comply with the Environmental Protection Agency and Dumping at Sea regulations.</p>	Implemented
<p>M151: Progressively implement the OSPAR Offshore Oil and Gas Industry Strategy.</p>	<p>OSPAR Offshore Industry Committee strategy is followed in exploration and production of petroleum in Ireland. Ongoing process as OSPAR update Decisions regularly.</p> <p>https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/oic</p>	Implemented
<p>M152: Implement OSPAR Decision 2000/2 on a</p>	<p>OSPAR Decision 2000/2 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use and Reduction of the</p>	Implemented



Measure	Progress Details	Status
Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use and Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals (as amended by OSPAR Decision 2005/1).	Discharge of Offshore Chemicals (as amended by OSPAR Decision 2005/1) has been implemented. https://rod.eionet.europa.eu/obligations/461	
M153: Implement the OSPAR Recommendation 2005/2 on environmental goals for the use and discharge of OSPAR Priority Chemicals.	The OSPAR Recommendation 2005/2 on environmental goals for the use and discharge of OSPAR Priority Chemicals has been implemented. https://rod.eionet.europa.eu/obligations/574	Implemented
M154: Apply OSPAR Recommendation 2006/3 on environmental goals for the phasing-out of discharges of substances identified as candidates for substitution.	The OSPAR Recommendation 2006/3 on environmental goals for the phasing-out of discharges of substances identified as candidates for substitution has been applied. https://rod.eionet.europa.eu/obligations/593/legislation	Implemented
M155: Implement OSPAR Recommendation 2001/1 for the Management of Produced Water from Offshore Installations (as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2006/4).	The OSPAR Recommendation 2001/1 for the Management of Produced Water from Offshore Installations (as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2006/4) has been implemented. https://rod.eionet.europa.eu/obligations/594	Implemented
M156: Implement OSPAR Recommendation 2003/5 promoting the use and implementation of environmental management systems by the offshore industry.	The OSPAR Recommendation 2003/5 promoting the use and implementation of environmental management systems by the offshore industry has been implemented. https://rod.eionet.europa.eu/obligations/493	Implemented
M189: To continue efforts to improve business attitudes and behaviours around marine and coastal litter	The Coast Care range of programmes operated by An Taisce includes local beach cleans, the annual national "big beach clean", love your coast photography competition, and corporate volunteering, among others. There are now currently over 800 volunteering groups around the coast of Ireland involved in these programmes. Targeted advertising and media campaigns are a feature of the programme. Local organisations, State Agencies and Business entities are involved in the rollout of this programme. http://www.antaisce.org/	Implemented
M194: To promote the use of the National Environmental Complaints Line and the reporting of environmental pollution, fly-tipping and illegal	The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System (NLPMS) is an annual report on litter in Ireland. Litter surveys are undertaken by local authorities to an agreed methodology. Its aim is to report on the extent, composition, severity and causative factors of litter	Implemented



Measure	Progress Details	Status
dumping of waste; including the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, funded by DECLG, including www.litter.ie .	throughout all local authority functional areas. Consultants are retained to act as the Litter Monitoring Body and produce the national collated Report on litter. The reports are available on www.litter.ie	
M225: To apply the IMO I817:2014 Code On Noise Levels On Board Ships.	This code relates to the noise levels on-board ships to provide international standards for protection against noise for seafarers. http://www.imo.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/Documents/MSC%20-%20Maritime%20Safety/337(91).pdf	Implemented

Table 6: 1B Measures Implementation Started

Measure	Progress Details	Status
M006: Continue the protection of wild bird species through the designation of Ireland's network of Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC).	Ireland has 154 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) covering some 5,894 km ² . This includes marine areas totalling 1,717km ² . 139 sites have been formally classified, with the remaining 15 expected to be formally classified by the end of 2019. Ireland has 89 marine SPAs (as defined by Birds Directive reporting guidelines). Ireland will complete analyses of recently collected seabird data to determine whether any further SPAs will be selected for seabirds at sea. https://www.npws.ie/status-and-trends-ireland%E2%80%99s-bird-species-%E2%80%93-article-12-reporting	Implementation Started
M007: Update regional lists of protected plant species and propose protection status for other species and habitats on the scale of the marine subregion.	As part of Ireland's work on this measure, and under a data call for implementation reporting on the OSPAR Recommendations on listed threatened and/or declining species and habitats, in 2019 Ireland is commencing an examination of the scientific basis (if any) for proposing the protection of other species and/or habitats. There are no new lists of protected plant species proposed by Ireland at present.	Implementation Started
M008: Continued implementation of OSPAR recommendations for Threatened and/or Declining habitats and species.	Ireland will report on the implementation of these OSPAR recommendations in line with the OSPAR reporting call for end of 2019. https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/species-habitats/list-of-threatened-declining-species-habitats	Implementation Started
M010: To continue to report data on habitat distribution to	Ireland reports habitat mapping data to OSPAR annually in response to data calls. The generation of habitat maps require additional data on environmental	Implementation Started



<p>the OSPAR habitat mapping database.</p>	<p>variables and ground truth data (video footage and sediment samples). These additional data are used to accurately delineate the boundaries between the different habitats for biological communities.</p> <p>https://www.infomar.ie/maps/interactive-maps/seabed-and-sediment</p> <p>https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/access-data/launch-map-viewer/</p>	
<p>M017: To continue to consider whether sites justify selection as Marine Protected Areas.</p>	<p>As part of Ireland's obligations under the MSFD, OSPAR Convention and other instruments, the process of extending Ireland's network of MPAs has begun in 2019. This includes a detailed review of existing spatial protection measures and tools which will be completed in 2020 to inform future protection processes and associated legislation. The consideration of sites for potential inclusion in the national network of MPAs will be a central component of this exercise.</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>
<p>M036: Continue the National Marine Mammal By-catch Monitoring Programme.</p>	<p>The recording of bycatch of all Protected, Endangered and Threatened Species (PETS) is obligatory under the DCF as part of European Union Monitoring and Advocacy Program (EUMAP) 2016/1251 and as part of the DCF Ireland is recording the bycatch of all species. Since 2017, Ireland is also implementing an enhanced bycatch programme for activities that pose a potentially higher risk, which includes an offshore and inshore bycatch monitoring programme for set nets (gill net and tangle net). In 2018, the enhanced bycatch sampling was expanded to the offshore pelagic fishery for Horse mackerel. All bycatch data is transmitted to end users via an official PET data call and reported in Ireland's DCF annual report.</p> <p>https://emff.marine.ie/marine-biodiversity/assessment-species-catch-composition-fisheries-posing-risk-biodiversity</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>
<p>M044: Continue to develop fishery closure areas and seasonal closures in conjunction with the Regional Groups of Member States and Advisory Councils based on the best available advice.</p>	<p>Under Article 11 of the Common Fisheries Policy, any proposed measures that will apply to a fishery in which one or more other Member States have a direct management interest must be agreed with those Member States. If agreement is not possible then the only way measures could be introduced is by way of a full co-decision process.</p> <p>Ireland continues to develop fishery closure areas and seasonal closures in conjunction with the other Member States with a management interest in North</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>



	Western Waters and the North Western Waters Advisory Council based on available advice.	
M045: Continue to examine and develop, where appropriate, closures of spawning and nursery grounds to preserve sensitive stocks at the national level, where sites are within the 6 nautical mile limit, and at the EU level.	Under Article 11 of the Common Fisheries Policy any proposed measures that will apply to a fishery in which one or more other Member States have a direct management interest must be agreed with those Member States. If agreement is not possible then the only way measures could be introduced is by way of a full co-decision process. Ireland continues to examine and develop closures of spawning and nursery ground areas to preserve sensitive stocks at both national and EU level.	Implementation Started
M052: To continue to examine and develop, where appropriate, the use of different types of fishing gear at the national level within the 6 nautical mile limit, and at the EU level.	Under the EU's Data Collection Framework (DCF) economic and biological data is collected on an annual basis, which includes a breakdown by gear type of the Irish fishing fleet. This analysis shows that pots are the predominant gear type for small scale vessels, with trawls the main gear used by the larger vessels greater than 12m.	Implementation Started
M053: To develop and implement fishery management measures for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at national level where sites are within the 6 nautical mile limit and at regional EU level for MPAs outside the 6 nautical mile limit.	Outside 6NM: Ireland continues to implement fishery management measures for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Inside 6NM: Ireland continues to manage the impacts of sea-fisheries in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000 sites). M059 addresses this regulation	Implementation Started
M062: Continue to implement the EU fishery management measures for the protection of relevant habitats included on the OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining list.	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) data are collated and reported to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in support of protection of VME habitats under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The Habitats Directive sets Conservation Objectives for designated habitats.	Implementation Started
M063: Continue to implement the EU fishery management measures for the protection of relevant species included on the OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining list.	By-catch data for relevant species are collated and reported to International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in support of future mitigation of by-catch under the CFP. Species designated under the Natura Directives have progressively tailored measures developed, through existing legislation implementing.	Implementation Started
M071: Continue to develop invasive species action plans. Implement commitment to	BIM have established a comprehensive Invasive Aliens Species work programme focused on the aquaculture sector. It includes convening an inter-	Implementation Started



<p>develop an (Aquaculture) Industry Code of Practice for Invasive Alien Species.</p>	<p>departmental and inter-agency working group. Through the working group the developing of an aquaculture licence protocol for Risk Assessment and Biosecurity Planning is ongoing. Retention of an expert advisor whose duties include collection of baseline data is ongoing. Support to aquaculture sector in voluntary development of risk assessment and biosecurity plans is ongoing. BIM staff training was completed in March 2019. Aquaculture industry training is ongoing. Development of an aquaculture sector focused smartphone application is due for completion during summer 2019.</p> <p>http://www.bim.ie/news-and-events/content,130115,en.html</p>	
<p>M075: The implementation of the Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.</p>	<p>Implementation is ongoing in Ireland on this measure.</p> <p>http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/invasive-species/policy-and-legislation/</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>
<p>M078: Upon the ratification of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Ballast Water Convention and its implementation under Irish law by statute Ireland will apply IMO and OSPAR Guidelines for the control and management of ship's ballast water to minimise the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens.</p>	<p>Ireland made provision for the incorporation of the Ballast Water Convention into Irish law in the Sea Pollution Act 2006. The Convention came into force internationally in 2017.</p> <p>Secondary legislation has been drafted to commence the 2006 Act and to allow Ireland to ratify the Convention. It is expected that this legislation will be enacted shortly.</p> <p>http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2006/act/29/section/34/enacted/en/html</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>
<p>M104: To continue to work with the National Inshore Fisheries Forum to develop inshore fisheries policy within 6 nautical miles.</p>	<p>The Inshore Fisheries Forums began operation in Q4 2015. They have been responsible for proposing the introduction of management measures notably the Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) for razor clam, velvet crab and brown crab. During 2018 and early 2019 the Inshore Fisheries Strategy 2019-2023 was developed. An Implementation Group has been formed. The Inshore Fisheries Forums will undergo a renewal and capacity building process in 2019.</p> <p>http://www.bim.ie/media/bim/content/publications/fisheries/BIM-Inshore-Fisheries-Sector-Strategy-2019-2023.pdf</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>



<p>M127: Develop sector specific guidance documentation and regional strategy plans for renewable energy growth and impact control.</p>	<p>Sector specific guidance documentation and regional strategy plans for renewable energy growth and impact control are provided for under The Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) which was published in 2014 https://www.dccae.gov.ie/energy/topics/Renewable-Energy/electricity/offshore/offshore-renewable-energy-development-plan-/Pages/Offshore-Renewable-Energy-Development-Plan.aspx</p> <p>A full review of the OREDP including a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is envisaged in 2020.</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>
<p>M130: Develop and implement marine plans for all of Irish waters by 31st March 2021 at the latest.</p>	<p>Implementation of marine spatial planning in Ireland is on target for completion by end of March 2021 at the latest. The next major milestone will be publication for public consultation in Autumn 2019 of the draft plan and associated draft environmental report resulting from the strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment of the draft plan. https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/maritime-spatial-planning/maritime-spatial-planning-directive/maritime-spatial-planning</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>
<p>M150: Implement the OSPAR Hazardous Substances Strategy.</p>	<p>The OSPAR Hazardous Substances Strategy objectives are in place along with the Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) Monitoring. Ireland participate actively in Hazardous Substances & Eutrophication Committee (HASEC) committee and its implementation of the strategy. There is an ongoing review of Lists of Substances of Possible Concern (LSPC) and List of Chemicals for Priority Action (LCPA). https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/hasec/chemicals https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/cemp</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>
<p>M177: Regulate and appropriately monitor of dredging and disposal under the Foreshore Act 1993 (as amended)</p>	<p>Applications for development requiring a Foreshore consent continue to be rigorously assessed to meet the requirements of EU and National Legislation. https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applying-consent/consent-process-explained</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>
<p>M187: To continue to implement the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter</p>	<p>Ireland is actively involved in the OSPAR Marine Litter Regional Action plan and co-leads on a number of actions:</p>	<p>Implementation Started</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 42 to investigate and promote with appropriate industries the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and best Environmental Practice (BEP) to develop sustainable and cost effective solutions to reduce and prevent sewage and storm water related waste entering the marine environment, including micro particle; https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=40943 • Action 43 to assess relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the use of single-use and other items, which impact the marine environment, including the illustration of the associated costs and environmental impacts.; and • Action 49 to investigate the prevalence and impact of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the marine environment, and engage with industry to make proposals for alternative materials and/or how to reduce its impacts. http://www.oceanwise-project.eu/ 	
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Progress on measures that build on existing EU legislation or international agreements but go beyond what is already required under these (type 2A)

5 of the 55 measures are classified a 2A. To date 2 of these measures have been implemented, (Figure 9) with the remaining 3 Measures having started implementation. A description of the progress made on these measures is included in Tables 7 and 8.

Figure 9: Progress on Category 2A Measures

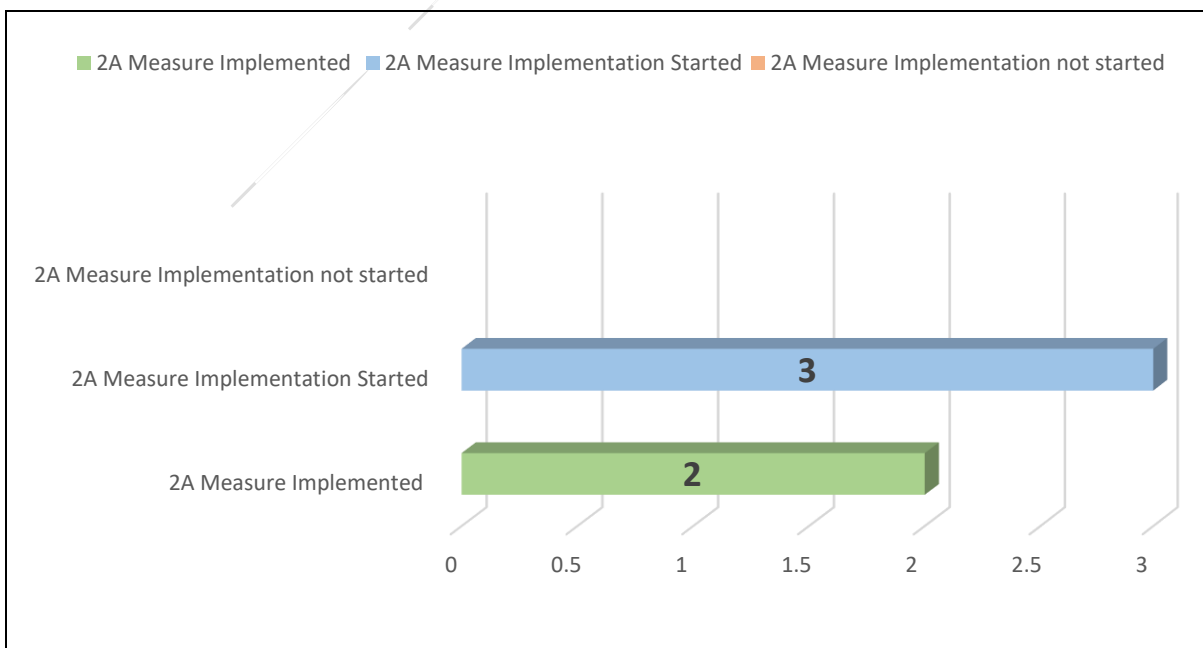




Table 7: 2A Measures Implemented

Measure	Progress Details	Status
M206: Maintain and expand the Fishing for Litter Scheme.	The Fishing for Litter (FFL) is expanding and uptake by fishers has been very good. http://www.bim.ie/fishing-for-litter/	Implemented
M207: Continue to promote and support An Taisce's programme on Ocean Literacy.	The Coast Care and Green School's Marine Environment Module is an education and awareness raising programme. The Green Schools' (eco-schools) Module is rolled out to primary and second level schools across the country. The Green Schools programme is operated by 95% of Irish schools - though not all have completed the marine environment module yet as the programme requires that they complete other modules first. https://greenschoolsireland.org/ https://cleancoasts.org/	Implemented

Table 8: 2A Measures Implementation Started

Measure	Progress Details	Status
M016: Continue to ensure coherence of Ireland's network of marine protected areas by setting up increased protection areas using tools such as habitat protection orders, no-take zones etc.	As part of Ireland's obligations under the MSFD, OSPAR Convention and other instruments, the process of extending Ireland's network of MPAs began in 2019. This includes a detailed review of existing spatial protection measures and tools which will be completed in 2020 to inform future protection processes and associated legislation. Ensuring the coherence of Ireland's network of MPAs will be a central component of this exercise.	Implementation Started
M019: Develop a national strategy to create and manage Ireland's network of Marine Protected Areas.	As part of Ireland's obligations under the MSFD, OSPAR Convention and other instruments, the process of extending Ireland's network of MPAs began in 2019. This includes a detailed review of existing spatial protection measures and tools which will be completed in 2020 to inform future protection processes and associated legislation. The consideration and development of a national strategy to create and manage Ireland's network of MPAs will be a central component of this exercise.	Implementation Started
M223: To establish and maintain a register of noise in	Impulsive Noise data from underwater seismic surveys undertaken during 2016 and 2017 has been uploaded to the ICES underwater Noise Registry.	Implementation Started



<p>the Irish Marine Assessment Area.</p>	<p>The ICES underwater Noise Register supports OSPAR in providing information for a regional assessments of impulsive noise levels. In addition, it facilitates OSPAR contracting parties' coordination on MSFD Descriptor 11</p> <p>This data has been provided by DCCAE and reflects conventional seismic surveys and site surveys carried out under permit during 2016 and 2017. Data from more recent years will be incorporated once it is available.</p> <p>http://ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/underwater-noise.aspx</p>	
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Progress on measures which do not build on existing EU legislation or international agreements (type 2B)

5 of the 55 measures to be reported under Article 18 are classified a 2B. To date 3 of these measures have been implemented (Figure 10) with the remaining 2 measures having started implementation. A description of the progress made on these measures is included in Tables 9 and 10.

Figure 10: Progress on Category 2B Measures

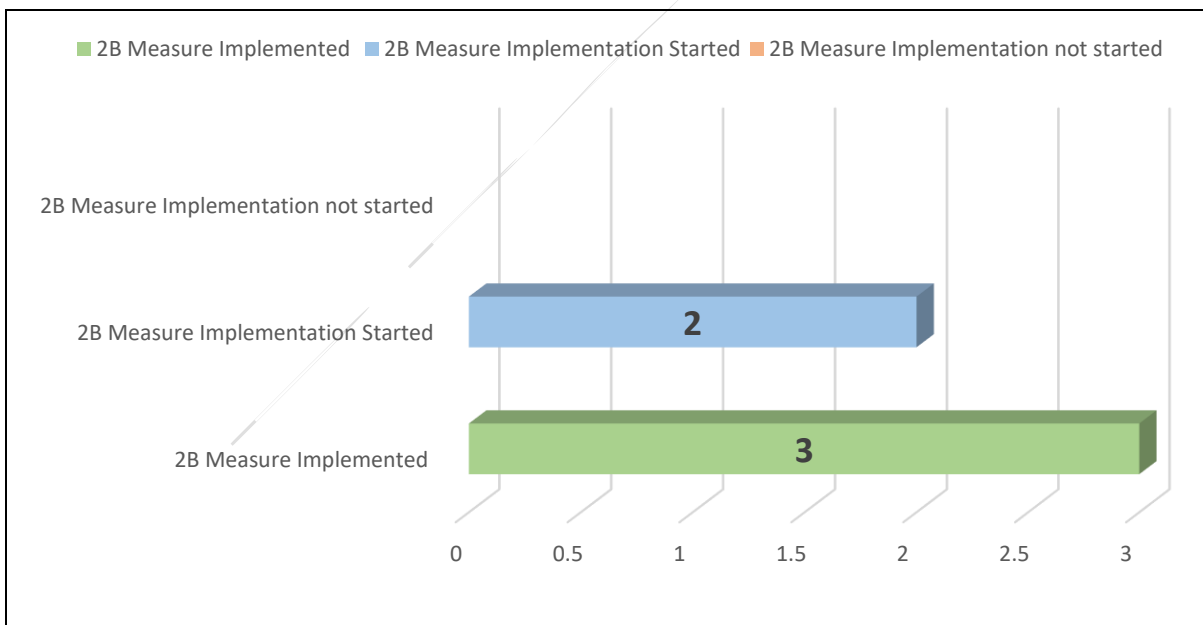


Table 9: 2B Measures Implemented

Measure	Progress Details	Status
<p>M015: Awareness and training of best practices in maritime and coastal activities and</p>	<p>Work is ongoing on multiple fronts through environment education campaigns, structured education and sector specific educational activities.</p>	<p>Implemented</p>



preservation of the marine environment.	https://greenschoolsireland.org/ http://www.bim.ie/fishing-for-litter/ https://ien.ie/coastwatch/	
M213: To continue to raise awareness to tackle the sources of litter through the international environmental education programme Eco-Schools. This includes developing an international Eco-School module on marine litter with the Celtic Seas Partnership, Eco Schools (FEE - Copenhagen) and An Taisce.	<p>The marine litter module was launched by Green-Schools Ireland (Eco-Schools) in September 2016 with 53 schools taking part. It was a huge success and a further 150 schools started the module in September 2017. Currently there are 235 schools working on the topic of marine litter in their schools across Ireland, this is expected to increase again in September 2019. The Green-Schools programme offers assistance to schools to help them increase their knowledge on the problems associated with Marine Litter and how to take action to prevent it. This assistance includes, teacher training, school workshops and national conferences on Marine litter for 9-12 year olds. These have resulted in an average of 40 percent increase in awareness levels of participants on the sources of marine Litter, effects of Marine litter on the environment, and how they can prevent marine litter entering the environment.</p> <p>https://greenschoolsireland.org/</p>	Implemented
M214: On-going implementation of the #2minutebeachclean/#Glantra 2noimead initiative and expansion across all blue flag beaches in Ireland.	<p>The 2-minute beach clean is operated on all blue flag beach and many other beaches around Ireland. Publicity material, packs and merchandise with An Taisce branding are provided to those involved with the initiative. The campaign is widely promoted at national festivals/events and on social media. A smartphone App is available for volunteers for digital uploading of material directly on social media sites. The DHPLG continues to provide support and funding for the #2minutebeachclean initiative.</p> <p>http://www.antisce.org/articles/2-minute-beach-clean http://www.antisce.org/programmes/blue-flag</p>	Implemented

Table 10: 2B Measures Implementation Started

Measure	Progress Details	Status
M009: To continue to investigate the distribution of habitats through seabed surveys and monitoring through initiatives such as the Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of	<p>Ireland has been undertaking a systematic baseline survey of its seabed since 1999. In Phase 1 (2006-2016) INFOMAR surveyed 26 priority bays and 3 coastal areas. Now INFOMAR is systematically mapping the remaining seabed areas both coastal and offshore with completion due by the end 2026. Data, products and services are freely and easily</p>	Implementation Started



Ireland's MARine Resource (INFOMAR) Programme.	<p>accessible, and they are underpinning cross-sectoral development and activities.</p> <p>It is estimated that the area of seabed currently physically mapped is approximately 80% of Ireland's designated offshore area. Seabed classification charts are primary deliverables and habitat maps are value added products associated with the national mapping programme.</p> <p>https://www.infomar.ie/maps/interactive-maps</p>	
M212: To continue to apply the BIM Responsibly Sourced Standard for wild capture fisheries.	<p>Linking the Responsibly Sourced Standard (RSS) to the development of FIPS (Fishery Improvement Projects) has increased the business case for RSS</p> <p>http://www.bim.ie/our-services/your-environment/fisherman/</p> <p>http://www.bim.ie/our-services/grow-your-business/rss.standard/</p> <p>http://www.bim.ie/media/bim/content/our-services/grow-your-business/wild-capture-fish/BIM,RSS_FIPS_Leaflet.pdf</p>	Implementation Started

Conclusion

This report provides a snapshot of the broad range of actions and measures in place in Ireland to protect the marine environment and to maintain or achieve GES. Ireland's framework of measures and action put in place to deal with the pressures on the marine environment is amongst the most relevant and appropriate across the European Union with a suite of **203** measures covering all activities on land and at sea that exert pressure on the marine environment.

Almost 9 out of 10⁷ of the measures put in place have been implemented with all remaining measures⁸ underway. No measures remain to be commenced.

The first cycle of the directive established a comprehensive set of environmental targets with associated indicators (2013). Progress towards these targets was underpinned by a monitoring programme (2015) and an ambitious cross-sectoral programme of measures (2016) which is designed to ensure that GES can be maintained or achieved.

Achieving or maintaining GES under the marine strategy framework directive underpins wider policy objectives linked to the sustainable use of the sea within Ireland's integrated maritime plan (Harnessing Our Ocean's Wealth (HOOW)). It ensures that the sea is clean, healthy, and biologically diverse and used sustainably.

⁷ 87% or 177 measures

⁸ 13% or 26 measures



Implementation of the MSFD is a 6-year cyclical process. As each cycle concludes it informs the next cycle ensuring that growing knowledge and understanding of the marine environment are incorporated into assessments and target setting; new monitoring programmes and new measure are developed to deal with the predominant pressures on the marine environment. The progress in this report on implementing the existing programme of measures will play an important part in decisions on subsequent directive stages and ultimately on how Ireland achieves Good Environmental Status.

Annex 1 – Full List of the 203 Measures as reported under MSFD Article 13.

Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
M001	Continue to apply the <i>Natura</i> Directives (Birds Directive [2009/147/EC] and Habitats Directive [92/43/EEC]) and associated national regulations as laid down in S.I. No.477/2011 - European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.	1, 4, 6
M002	Complete the identification of Special Areas of Conservation by the end of 2015.	1, 4, 6
M003	Continue the protection of species and habitats listed in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) through the designation of Ireland's network of Special Areas of Conservation.	1, 4, 6
M004	Continue implementing an appropriate monitoring and assessment strategy addressing the distribution, extent and condition of habitats and species to support conservation status assessment under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).	1, 4, 6
M005	Continue to apply the requirement for Appropriate Assessment of activities within <i>Natura</i> sites as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).	1, 4, 6
M006	Continue the protection of wild bird species through the designation of Ireland's network of Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC).	1, 4, 6
M007	Update regional lists of protected plant species and propose protection status for other species and habitats on the scale of the marine subregion.	1, 4, 6
M008	Continued implementation of OSPAR recommendations for Threatened and/or Declining habitats and species.	1, 4, 6
M009	To continue to investigate the distribution of habitats through seabed surveys and monitoring through initiatives such as the INtegrated Mapping FORe the Sustainable Development of Ireland's MARine Resource (INFOMAR) Programme.	1, 4, 6
M010	To continue to report data on habitat distribution to the OSPAR habitat mapping database.	1, 4, 6
M011	Implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EEC) River Basin Management Plans which include measures aimed toward the achievement of Good Ecological Status of coastal and transitional intertidal waters bodies.	5, 8, 9
M012	Maintain the Water Framework Directive River Classification Scheme and associated management measures.	5, 8, 9
M013	Continue to implement Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC) in order to identify, minimise and mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts.	5, 11
M014	Continue to implement the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) in order to identify, minimise and mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts.	2, 7, 8, 10, 11
M015	Awareness and training of best practices in maritime and coastal activities and preservation of the marine environment.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
M016	Continue to ensure coherence of Ireland's network of marine protected areas by setting up increased protection areas using tools such as habitat protection orders, no-take zones etc.	1, 4, 6
M017	To continue to consider whether sites justify selection as Marine Protected Areas.	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
M018	Set up (temporary or permanent) Marine Protected Areas in functional zones for fish.	1, 3, 4, 6
M019	Develop a national strategy to create and manage Ireland's network of Marine Protected Areas.	1, 4, 6
M020	To continue to develop shellfish stock assessments which take into account requirements for protected bird species at national level within 6 nautical miles.	1, 4, 6
M021	Promote site-specific measures to protect island bird colonies from invasion by non-indigenous predatory mammals.	1, 2, 4, 6
M022	Continue to be informed by the Action plans developed by BirdWatch Ireland.	1, 4, 6
M023	Continue to implement ongoing measures to protect sites important for marine waterbird species including Natural Heritage Areas, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and Irish wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.	1, 4, 6
M024	Continue to apply the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2012.	1, 4, 6
M025	Fulfil the obligations for the protection of migratory waterbird species.	1, 4, 6
M026	Continue to apply the regulations that enforce the Wildlife Acts and Regulations, which makes it an offence to kill, injure or capture marine mammal species, and to cause damage to certain areas used by the species for shelter or protection, or to disturb animals occupying such areas.	1, 4, 6
M027	Continue to enforce legislation, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, take, disturb, possess or trade species listed under the Wildlife Act.	1, 4, 6
M028	Continue to enforce Wildlife Acts and Regulations, which makes it an offence to kill, injure or capture birds and to cause damage to and their nests and eggs.	1, 4, 6
M029	Continue to implement the licensing process controlling the possession of certain birds or animals.	1, 2, 4, 6
M030	Continue to implement the licensing process controlling the import/export trade of certain birds or animals.	1, 4, 6
M031	Continue to implement the licensing process controlling hunting of certain birds or animals.	1, 4, 6
M032	Continue to implement the licensing process governing disturbance of protected plant and animal species.	1, 4, 6
M033	To apply guidance in place for carrying out activities (e.g. pile driving, seismic survey) in Irish marine waters which have the potential to kill, injure or disturb a marine European species (i.e. any cetacean or bird species).	1, 4, 6, 11



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
M034	Promote wildlife watching Codes of Practice to minimise risk of disturbance to marine wildlife including birds and mammals.	1, 4, 6
M035	Continue to implement Ireland's Cetacean Conservation Plan.	1, 4, 6, 10, 11
M036	Continue the National Marine Mammal By-catch Monitoring Programme.	1, 4, 6
M037	Manage the risk posed by sea fisheries to protected cetaceans in accordance with the Risk Assessment for Special Areas of Conservation.	1, 4, 6
M038	Maintain the use of acoustic deterrents ("pingers") in identified fisheries on vessels larger than 12m in accordance with EU regulations.	1, 4, 6
M039	Complete the designation process for proposed Special Areas of Conservation for harbour porpoise and bottle nosed dolphin in Irish waters.	1
M040	Maintain the moratorium on commercial whaling within the fisheries limits of the State (i.e. out to 200 miles from the coast) and to continue to prohibit the hunting by Irish registered ships of certain whales, including right whales and female whales accompanied by calves, outside the fisheries limits of the State.	1, 4, 6
M041	Continue to effectively control and promote compliance in accordance with the EU fisheries legislation.	1, 3, 4, 6
M042	To apply the Precautionary Principle to fisheries management to ensure that the exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield.	1, 3, 4, 6
M043	Continue to support the development and implementation of Multi Annual Plans at EU level.	1, 3, 4, 6
M044	Continue to develop fishery closure areas and seasonal closures in conjunction with the Regional Groups of Member States and Advisory Councils based on the best available advice.	1, 3, 4, 6
M045	Continue to examine and develop, where appropriate, closures of spawning and nursery grounds to preserve sensitive stocks at the national level, where sites are within the 6 nautical mile limit, and at the EU level.	1, 3, 4, 6
M046	Implementation of the Landing Obligation to help eliminate waste, protect young fish, rebuild fish stocks and ensure a sustainable future for the fishing industry.	1, 3, 4, 6
M047	Setting and enforcing of annual Total Allowable Catches and quotas.	1, 3, 4, 6
M048	Setting of conservation reference sizes to help lead to the reduction in overall fishing pressure on target species, including sensitive species.	1, 3, 4, 6
M049	Continue to implement local conservation reference sizes stocks/species under national measures within the 6 nautical mile limit.	1, 3, 4, 6
M050	Promote the use of selective fishing gear in order to reduce high levels of unwanted catches and to gradually eliminate discards.	1, 3, 4, 6
M051	Promote activities that reduce catch of juvenile fish (e.g. avoidance of nursery/spawning grounds and juvenile fish aggregations). Supporting technical measures may include regulation of net size.	1, 3, 4, 6



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
M052	To continue to examine and develop, where appropriate, the use of different types of fishing gear at the national level within the 6 nautical mile limit, and at the EU level.	1, 3, 4, 6
M053	To develop and implement fishery management measures for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at national level where sites are within the 6 nautical mile limit and at regional EU level for MPAs outside the 6 nautical mile limit.	1, 3, 4, 6
M054	To deliver compliance with legislation, which prohibits the removal of shark fins at sea, and other measures which support the conservation of elasmobranch species.	1, 3, 4, 6
M055	Regulate recreational and commercial fisheries to support conservation and sustainable exploitation.	1, 3, 4, 6
M056	Continue to implement the salmon licensing and log book reporting scheme.	1, 3, 4, 6
M057	Apply the compulsory management schemes for species below their conservation objectives.	1, 3, 4, 6
M058	Continued implementation of Ireland's Eel Management Plans in line with the requirements of Council Regulation (No. 1100/2007).	1, 3, 4, 6
M059	Continue to manage the impacts of sea-fisheries and aquaculture in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
M061	Ensure that operators restore shellfish growing areas once production ends.	1, 3, 4, 6
M062	Continue to implement the EU fishery management measures for the protection of relevant habitats included on the OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining list.	1, 4, 6
M063	Continue to implement the EU fishery management measures for the protection of relevant species included on the OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining list.	1, 3, 4, 6
M064	To continue to support effective conservation methods for elasmobranch species delivering on the EU Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.	1, 3, 4, 6
M066	Apply Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as appropriate.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
M067	Implementation of Directive 2013/30/EU on safety of offshore oil and gas operations within Irish Legislation. This ensures protection of the marine environment through implementation of safety measures/mechanisms for offshore oil and gas operations. This includes, <i>inter alia</i> , as per Article 8 of Directive 2013/30/EU, the appointment of the Commission of Energy Regulation (CER) as the competent authority responsible for regulatory functions in this regard.	1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11
M068	Ensuring on-going implementation of guidelines for the assessment of dredged material for disposal in Irish waters, the application of the Foreshore Acts and the licensing, permitting and enforcement of activities under the Dumping At Sea Act.	1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
M070	Continue to enforce Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and associated national Regulations with respect to the control of invasive species.	2
M071	Continue to develop invasive species action plans. Implement commitment to develop an (Aquaculture) Industry Code of Practice for Invasive Alien Species.	2
M072	Continue to apply Council Directive 2006/88/EC & national regulations with regard to the movement of aquaculture species [European Communities (Health of Aquaculture Animals and Products) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 261 of 2008) as amended].	2
M074	Continue to apply to aquaculture licences for the cultivation of finfish and shellfish the condition that the Licensee shall comply with any regulations in force governing the movement of cultured marine species.	2, 3
M075	The implementation of the Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.	2
M076	Continue to promote the Invasive Species Ireland's All-Island (Republic of Ireland and United Kingdom) Code of Practice for Water Users as a source of guidance on how to act responsibly within the law to prevent the introduction and manage the spread of alien invasive species.	2
M077	Maintain and expand as necessary a watch and alert system for non-indigenous species.	2
M078	Upon the ratification of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Ballast Water Convention and its implementation under Irish law by statute Ireland will apply IMO and OSPAR Guidelines for the control and management of ship's ballast water to minimise the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens.	2
M079	Continue to apply the Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture Regulations (708/2008).	2
M080	Continue to promote local action groups to engage the support of the third sector in controlling invasive non-indigenous species and in promoting key messages.	2
M081	Continue to promote awareness of invasive non-indigenous species to the public and marine/maritime professionals.	2
M082	Continue to apply Regulations, which require landowners, or occupiers of a premise, to take action with respect to invasive species.	2
M083	To continue to apply the new Common Fisheries Policy (1380/2013) which entered into force on 1 January 2014.	3
M084	Continued regulation of fishing equipment, vessels, duration and species to regulate the pressures on the environment.	1, 3, 4, 6
M085	In accordance with the Common Fisheries Policy (1380/2013), through the application of the Precautionary Approach to fisheries management, to aim to ensure that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested	3



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
	species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield.	
M086	To implement a regional approach to fisheries management in line with Article 18 of the Common Fisheries Policy (1380/2013).	3
M087	Setting total annual catch at EU level with regard to scientific advice from scientists to provide for the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and species.	1, 3, 4, 6
M088	Manage the fishing capacity of the fleet with regard to fishing opportunities over time in accordance with the Common Fisheries Policy (1380/2013).	3
M089	Continue to manage the sea-fishing fleet in line with the Entry/Exit Scheme as set out in the Common Fisheries Policy (1380/2013).	3
M090	Continue to ensure that the capacity of the sea-fishing fleet does not exceed the capacity ceiling set out in Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013.	3
M091	To continue to support the Responsible Irish Fish (RIF) label and sustainability certification schemes (e.g. fisheries with Marine Stewardship Council certification).	1, 3, 4, 6
M092	In co-operation with the European Commission, to utilise the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to support the effective delivery of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy.	3
M093	To implement Council Regulation (EC) No. 2347/2002 establishing specific access requirements and associated conditions applicable to fishing for deep-sea stocks and support strengthened measures in any amendment to the Regulation.	3
M098	Continue to prohibit drift netting at sea.	1, 3, 4, 6
M100	Continue the precautionary management approach of prohibiting the commercial fishing and marketing of sea bass by Irish vessels. Support and implement measures adopted at EU Member State meetings to address the declining stocks of sea bass	3
M101	Replenishment of depleted inshore stocks in order to improve environmental sustainability.	3
M102	Continue to develop closure areas and seasonal closures in conjunction with the Regional Groups of Member States and Advisory Councils based on the best available scientific advice.	1, 3, 4, 6
M103	To continue to work with the Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums and local stakeholders to develop and implement locally informed management plans for inshore fisheries within 6 nautical miles.	1, 3, 4, 6
M104	To continue to work with the National Inshore Fisheries Forum to develop inshore fisheries policy within 6 nautical miles.	3
M105	Continue to implement effort management for crab fisheries in line with EU regulations.	1, 3, 4, 6
M106	To continue to enforce the protection measures for juvenile shellfish species set out in Council Regulation 850/98 as amended.	1, 3, 4, 6
M107	Continued effort management of Scallop fishing in line with EU legislation.	1, 3, 4, 6



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
M108	<p>Implement national restrictions on fishing vessels participating in the scallop fishery, as follows.</p> <p>Vessels greater than or equal to 10m Length Overall must hold an Authorisation in order to retain on board or land a quantity of Scallop that is greater than 10% by live weight of the total quantity of all species of fish retained on board or landed on that occasion.</p> <p>To qualify for an Authorisation, a vessel must either have:</p> <p>(i) carried out scallop fishing activity for at least 50 days at sea in the two and a half years up to 30 June 2005, or</p> <p>(ii) have sourced 100% replacement capacity from a vessel(s) which carried out scallop fishing activity for at least 50 days at sea in the two and a half years up to 30 June 2005.</p>	1, 3, 4, 6
M109	<p>To continue to develop and to apply protection measures for shellfish species in accordance with EU and national legislation such as v-notching, minimum & maximum landing size for lobsters, minimum landing size for brown crab, spider crab crawfish, closed season for shrimp, monitoring, reporting & spawning closure for bivalve fisheries.</p>	1, 3, 4, 6
M111	<p>To continue to prevent pollution of surface waters from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality through the application of Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme. This will continue to promote more efficient and effective fertiliser and manure management and farm management practices to reduce nutrient run-off (applying codes of good agricultural practice).</p>	5
M112	<p>To continue to support the Agricultural Catchments Programme that aims to maximize the effectiveness of Nitrates Action Plan by encouraging farmer participation and disseminating information from the programme to a wide audience.</p>	5
M113	<p>To continue to reduce nutrient inputs arising from Waste Water Treatment Plants through the application of the EC Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC).</p>	5
M114	<p>To continue to reduce the emissions of nutrients to the atmosphere through the setting of appropriate emission limits through the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) which sets emission limits for nitrogen in line with the best available abatement technologies.</p>	5
M115	<p>To reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides and ammonia through the application of the National Emissions Ceiling Directive (2001/81/EC) which sets emission ceilings on forms of nitrogen (nitrogen oxides and ammonia).</p>	5
M116	<p>To continue to control Nitrogen Oxides emissions from ships through the application of the Sea Pollution (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 313/2010).</p>	8
M117	<p>Continue to support the Rural Development Programme (RDP); including its Knowledge Transfer schemes and the implementation of the GLAS (Green Low- Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme) Scheme.</p>	5
M118	<p>To continue to apply PARCOM Recommendation 88/2 on the Reductions in Inputs of Nutrients to the Paris Convention Area (to</p>	5



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
	reduce nutrient inputs to eutrophication problem areas by 50% relative to input levels in 1985, until new reduction targets are set for problem areas to move to non-problem area status).	
M119	To continue to apply PARCOM Recommendation 89/4 on a Coordinated Programme for the Reduction of Nutrients.	5
M120	Continue to implement the Urban Wastewater Treatment regulations and review and amend as necessary the eutrophic sensitive waters designated under the regulations.	5
M121	Continued Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form implementation of Regulation laid out in MARPOL Annex III (entered into force 1 July 1992) and S.I. No. 510/2013.	8
M122	Continued Prevention of Pollution by Sewage from Ships through the implementation of Regulations laid out in MARPOL Annex IV (entered into force 27 September 2003) and S.I. No. 492/2012.	5
M124	Continue to implement national legislation to appropriately apply licensing, regulation and planning for the marine and coastal environment, including the requirement for applications to be accompanied by the materials necessary for a full assessment of the proposed plan, project or development.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
M125	Ensure that appropriate forms and levels of organisational governance are in place to support Foreshore Licensing, Petroleum Exploration/Appraisal/Production Licensing, and proposed Maritime Option Licensing process.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
M126	Ensure that the consenting/ permitting processes, overseen by relevant regulatory bodies/statutory bodies, sufficiently account for the adequate protection of habitats and species.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
M127	Develop sector specific guidance documentation and regional strategy plans for renewable energy growth and impact control.	7
M128	To apply the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and associated legislation in relation to licences and consents.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
M129	Continue to develop and implement river basin and shoreline management plans to control impacts and improve environmental status.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
M130	Develop and implement marine plans for all of Irish waters by 31st March 2021 at the latest.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
M133	Ensure that environmental monitoring and mitigation measures stipulated in Environmental Impact Statements are fit for purpose and when/where deemed necessary are conducted appropriately.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
M134	Continue to enforce statutory codes of practice on the application and use of chemicals (e.g. good agricultural practice on agri chemicals), which specify how various operations should be carried out to prevent chemicals entering surface waters.	8
M135	Continue to enforce River Basin Management Plans of which measures include legally binding codes of practice detailing storage	5



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
	requirements and nutrient controls (closed periods for manure spreading).	
M136	Set up and run pollution prevention awareness campaigns, which provide targeted advice and information to householders and those in high-risk areas on all rural diffuse pollution issues, in order to prevent and reduce chemicals from entering surface waters and groundwater.	5, 8
M137	Implement Water Framework Directive Environmental Quality Standards for specific pollutants used in assessment of water quality status.	8, 9
M138	To continue to enforce emission and discharge limits from industrial installations, in line with the best available technologies.	8
M139	To continue to prevent the use of legacy pesticide with persistent bio accumulative toxic properties.	1, 4, 6, 8, 9
M140	Continue to enforce EU Directive on Ship-source pollution and criminal penalties Directive 2005/35/EC (as amended by Directive 2009/123/EC).	8
M141	Continue to register, evaluate, authorise or restrict chemicals in accordance with national and EU legislation.	8
M142	Continue to enforce the ban on production, placing on the market and use (some limited exceptions) of intentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) substances listed in the Stockholm Convention (SC) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Protocol on POPs. Ensure the national action plan and implementation plan on how Ireland is meeting obligations under the SC is maintained and carried out.	8, 9
M143	To continue to review the River Basin Management Plans at the end of each 6-year cycle as outlined in the Water Framework Directive.	3, 5, 8, 9
M144	To continue to implement the requirements of S.I. No. 272/2009, as amended by S.I. No. 386/2015.	8
M145	Ensure shellfish products are fit for human consumption by implementing the Shellfish Waters Directive and its Pollution Reduction Programmes.	9
M146	Ensure storm water management is employed, particularly where excess loads can occur, by treating where and whenever necessary.	5
M147	To continue to regulate pesticides in accordance with relevant EU and national law.	8, 9
M148	Continue to control discharges through existing regulation procedures (licensing and permitting of activities) – Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control licences, Waste Water Discharge Licence, Local Authority Wastewater Authorisation (smaller discharges), Local Authority Waste Licences, Agricultural controls, Single Dwelling House Waste Water Systems and the implementation of Pollution Reduction Plans.	5, 7, 8, 9, 10
M149	Ensure dredging plans are incorporated into port master plans.	1, 4, 6, 7, 8
M150	Implement the OSPAR Hazardous Substances Strategy.	8, 9
M151	Progressively implement the OSPAR Offshore Oil and Gas Industry Strategy.	8, 10



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
M152	Implement OSPAR Decision 2000/2 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use and Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals (as amended by OSPAR Decision 2005/1).	8
M153	Implement the OSPAR Recommendation 2005/2 on environmental goals for the use and discharge of OSPAR Priority Chemicals.	8
M154	Apply OSPAR Recommendation 2006/3 on environmental goals for the phasing-out of discharges of substances identified as candidates for substitution.	8
M155	Implement OSPAR Recommendation 2001/1 for the Management of Produced Water from Offshore Installations (as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2006/4).	8
M156	Implement OSPAR Recommendation 2003/5 promoting the use and implementation of environmental management systems by the offshore industry.	8, 10
M157	Ensure operators take all necessary measures to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences for human health and the environment.	1, 4, 6, 8, 9
M158	Continue to enforce the Dumping at Sea Act 1996 (as amended), which specifically prohibits the dumping of certain materials at sea and requires any person who wishes to dispose of material at sea to apply to the EPA for a Dumping at Sea permit.	1, 4, 6, 8, 10
M159	Continue to enforce the Sea Pollution Act 1991 to prevent pollution of the sea by oil and other substances.	8
M160	Continue Prevention of Pollution by Oil through the implementation of Regulations laid out in MARPOL Annex I and S.I. No. 542/2010.	8
M161	Continued Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk through the implementation of Regulations laid out in MARPOL Annex II (entered into force 2 October 1983) and S.I. No. 217/2008.	8
M162	Continued Prevention of Pollution by Harmful Substances Carried by Sea in Packaged Form implementation of Regulation laid out in MARPOL Annex III (entered into force 1 July 1992) and S.I. No. 510/2013.	8
M164	Continued Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships through the implementation of regulations laid out in MARPOL Annex V (entered into force 31 December 1988) and S.I. No. 372/2012	10
M165	Continued Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships through the implementation of Regulations laid out in MARPOL Annex VI (entered into force 19 May 2005) and S.I. No. 313/2010).	8
M166	Continue to implement the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974. The objective of the SOLAS regard is to attain minimum standards for the construction, equipment and operation of ships, compatible with their safety.	8
M167	Continued provision of port waste reception facilities in commercial and fishing ports.	8, 10
M170	To continue to apply EU and national regulations setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs.	9



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
M171	To continue to apply EU and national regulations laying down the general principles and requirements of food law.	9
M172	To continue to apply EU and national regulations laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin.	9
M173	To continue to apply EU and national regulations on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.	9
M174	To continue to apply the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).	3, 5, 8, 9
M175	Continue to implement CLAMS – Coordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems to ensure adequate supervision and management of shellfish practices, and to empower aquaculture operators to undertake voluntary improvements and facilitate them to recognise and report incidents.	8, 9
M176	Continue to implement the EU Water Framework Directive, Dangerous Substances Directive and associated national legislation in land use planning and for issues relating to single and multi-dwelling unit, wastewater collection and treatment.	8
M177	Regulate and appropriately monitor of dredging and disposal under the Foreshore Act 1993 (as amended)	1, 4, 6, 7, 8
M178	Continue to implement EC (Health of Aquaculture Animals and Products) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 261/2008) and Council Directive 2006/88/EC.	9
M181	To continue to enforce the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009, which make littering an offence.	10
M182	To continue to implement regional waste management plans and a national hazardous waste management plan.	8, 10
M183	To continue to promote the use of packaging substitution.	10
M184	To continue to provide appropriate infrastructure for proper litter disposal and recycling including signage and bins.	10
M185	To continue to support initiatives which promote public pride in local amenity/natural beauty or reinforce social norms against littering.	10
M186	To continue to apply disincentives to litter (e.g. fines).	10
M187	To continue to implement the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	10
M188	To continue to apply Waste Prevention Programmes.	10
M189	To continue efforts to improve business attitudes and behaviours around marine and coastal litter.	10
M190	Continue beach cleaning (with Local Authority operational cleaning of the foreshore) and litter enforcement.	10
M191	To continue to contribute to a low carbon economy by treating “waste as a resource”.	10
M192	Promote greater reuse and recycling of goods and materials and management of waste.	10
M193	To continue to charge for single use carrier bags through the applications of the Plastic Bag (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (S.I. No. 167/2007), amending Plastic Bag Regulations (S.I. No. 605/2001).	10



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
M194	To promote the use of the National Environmental Complaints Line and the reporting of environmental pollution, fly-tipping and illegal dumping of waste; including the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, funded by DECLG, including www.litter.ie.	10
M195	To encourage the reuse and recycling of waste and the reduction of the amount of waste destined for landfill through the application of Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Regulations 2002-2013.	10
M196	To continue to enforce the requirement to put in place a site waste management plan at marine-related developments through the application of the EU Directive 2000/59/EC on port reception facilities for ship-generated wastes and cargo residues.	10
M197	Combined Storm Overflow Control (screening & limiting of spills) and application of the discharge licensing requirements set by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Waste Framework Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive.	5, 8, 10
M198	To reduce litter entering rivers and other water bodies by addressing pollution from surface water runoff and drainage through the application of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).	10
M201	Measures to maintain restrictions on the range of material that can be disposed of at sea from ships; and increase and improve port reception facilities for ship-generated waste; and extend port waste reception facilities to fishermen.	10
M202	To continue to raise awareness to tackle the sources of litter through the Blue Flag Beach and Green Coast Award programmes.	10
M203	Continue to implement the Producer Responsibility Initiative to increase the recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment.	10
M204	Continue to enforce legislation (S.I. No. 513/2012) restricting the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.	10
M205	To continue to implement the Producer Responsibility Initiative to increase the recycling of farm plastic waste through the application of the farm plastics recovery scheme.	10
M206	Maintain and expand the Fishing for Litter Scheme.	10
M207	Continue to promote and support An Taisce's programme on Ocean Literacy.	1, 4, 6, 10
M208	Maintain sea users' awareness of waste issues and encourage compliance with existing rules.	5, 8, 10
M209	Continue to promote the waste management service in order to provide alternative methods for the disposal of discarded fishing gear.	10
M212	To continue to apply the BIM Responsibly Sourced Standard for wild capture fisheries.	1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10
M213	To continue to raise awareness to tackle the sources of litter through the international environmental education programme Eco-Schools. This includes developing an international Eco-School module on marine	10



Measure Code	Description	Descriptors
	litter with the Celtic Seas Partnership, Eco Schools (FEE - Copenhagen) and An Taisce.	
M214	On-going implementation of the #2minutebeachclean/ #Glantra2noimead initiative and expansion across all blue flag beaches in Ireland.	10
M215	Continue to implement the Producer Responsibility Initiative to increase the recycling of batteries and accumulators.	10
M216	Continue to implement the Producer Responsibility Initiative to increase the recycling of construction and demolition waste.	10
M217	Continue to implement the Producer Responsibility Initiative (PRI) to increase the recycling of packaging waste; and to continue to promote, co-ordinate and finance the collection and recovery of packaging waste in order to achieve the objectives set out in the Packaging Waste Directive.	10
M218	Continue to implement the Producer Responsibility Initiative to increase the recycling of tyres.	10
M219	To continue to implement the Producer Responsibility Initiative to increase the recycling of end – of - life vehicles.	10
M220	Continue to promote the Bord Iascaigh Mhara Environment Management System (EMS) to assist fishermen to implement practices to help minimise the impact of fishing effort on the marine environment.	1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10
M221	Continue to promote the implementation of the Environment Management System on fish and shellfish farms through the Environment Management System for Aquaculture initiative.	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10
M223	To establish and maintain a register of noise in the Irish Marine Assessment Area.	11
M224	To continue to apply the Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters (NPWS 2014).	11
M225	To apply the IMO I817:2014 Code On Noise Levels On Board Ships.	11
M227	Support the Origin Green Initiative National programme to improve sustainability and environmental performance within the Irish Food Sector.	1, 2, 3, 4, 6



Annex 2 – 55 Measures included in Article 18 Interim Reporting

Measure Code	Description	Responsible authority	Descriptor
M002	Complete the identification of Special Areas of Conservation by the end of 2015.	DCHG/NPWS	1, 4, 6
M006	Continue the protection of wild bird species through the designation of Ireland's network of Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC).	DCHG/NPWS	1, 4, 6
M007	Update regional lists of protected plant species and propose protection status for other species and habitats on the scale of the marine subregion.	DHPLG	1, 4, 6
M008	Continued implementation of OSPAR recommendations for Threatened and/or Declining habitats and species.	DHPLG	1, 4, 6
M009	To continue to investigate the distribution of habitats through seabed surveys and monitoring through initiatives such as the Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of Ireland's MARine Resource (INFOMAR) Programme.	MI	1, 4, 6
M010	To continue to report data on habitat distribution to the OSPAR habitat mapping database.	DHPLG	1, 4, 6
M015	Awareness and training of best practices in maritime and coastal activities and preservation of the marine environment.	DHPLG	1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
M016	Continue to ensure coherence of Ireland's network of marine protected areas by setting up increased protection areas using tools such as habitat protection orders, no-take zones etc.	DHPLG	1, 4, 6
M017	To continue to consider whether sites justify selection as Marine Protected Areas.	DHPLG	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
M019	Develop a national strategy to create and manage Ireland's network of Marine Protected Areas.	DHPLG	1, 4, 6
M033	To apply guidance in place for carrying out activities (e.g. pile driving, seismic survey) in Irish marine waters which have the potential to kill, injure or disturb a marine European species (i.e. any cetacean or bird species).	DCHG/NPWS	1, 4, 6, 11
M034	Promote wildlife watching Codes of Practice to minimise risk of disturbance to marine wildlife including birds and mammals.	DCHG/NPWS	1, 4, 6
M035	Continue to implement Ireland's Cetacean Conservation Plan.	DCHG/NPWS	1, 4, 6, 10, 11
M036	Continue the National Marine Mammal By-catch Monitoring Programme.	MI	1, 4, 6
M037	Manage the risk posed by sea fisheries to protected cetaceans in accordance with the Risk Assessment for Special Areas of Conservation.	DCHG/NPWS DAFM	1, 4, 6



Measure Code	Description	Responsible authority	Descriptor
M039	Complete the designation process for proposed Special Areas of Conservation for harbour porpoise and bottle nosed dolphin in Irish waters.	DCHG/NPWS	1, 3, 4, 6
M044	Continue to develop fishery closure areas and seasonal closures in conjunction with the Regional Groups of Member States and Advisory Councils based on the best available advice.	DAFM	1, 3, 4, 6
M045	Continue to examine and develop, where appropriate, closures of spawning and nursery grounds to preserve sensitive stocks at the national level, where sites are within the 6 nautical mile limit, and at the EU level.	DAFM	1, 3, 4, 6
M050	Promote the use of selective fishing gear in order to reduce high levels of unwanted catches and to gradually eliminate discards.	BIM	1, 3, 4, 6
M051	Promote activities that reduce catch of juvenile fish (e.g. avoidance of nursery/spawning grounds and juvenile fish aggregations). Supporting technical measures may include regulation of net size.	BIM	1, 3, 4, 6
M052	To continue to examine and develop, where appropriate, the use of different types of fishing gear at the national level within the 6 nautical mile limit, and at the EU level.	DAFM	1, 3, 4, 6
M053	To develop and implement fishery management measures for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at national level where sites are within the 6 nautical mile limit and at regional EU level for MPAs outside the 6 nautical mile limit.	DAFM	1, 3, 4, 6
M054	To deliver compliance with legislation which prohibits the removal of shark fins at sea and other measures which support the conservation of elasmobranch species.	SFPA	1, 3, 4, 6
M059	Continue to manage the impacts of sea-fisheries and aquaculture in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.	DCHG/NPWS DAFM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
M061	Ensure that operators restore shellfish growing areas once production ends.	DAFM	1, 3, 4, 6
M062	Continue to implement the EU fishery management measures for the protection of relevant habitats included on the OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining list.	MI	1, 4, 6
M063	Continue to implement the EU fishery management measures for the protection of relevant species included on the OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining list.	MI	1, 3, 4, 6
M066	Apply Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as appropriate.	DHPLG	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11



Measure Code	Description	Responsible authority	Descriptor
M067	Implementation of Directive 2013/30/EU on safety of offshore oil and gas operations within Irish Legislation. This ensures protection of the marine environment through implementation of safety measures/mechanisms for offshore oil and gas operations. This includes, inter alia, as per Article 8 of Directive 2013/30/EU, the appointment of the Commission of Energy Regulation (CER) as the competent authority responsible for regulatory functions in this regard.	DCCAE	1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11
M071	Continue to develop invasive species action plans. Implement commitment to develop an (Aquaculture) Industry Code of Practice for Invasive Alien Species.	BIM	2
M075	The implementation of the Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.	DCHG/NPWS	2
M078	Upon the ratification of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Ballast Water Convention and its implementation under Irish law by statute Ireland will apply IMO and OSPAR Guidelines for the control and management of ship's ballast water to minimise the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens.	DTTAS	2
M104	To continue to work with the National Inshore Fisheries Forum to develop inshore fisheries policy within 6 nautical miles.	BIM	3
M108	Implement national restrictions on fishing vessels participating in the scallop fishery, as follows. Vessels greater than or equal to 10m Length Overall must hold an Authorisation in order to retain on board or land a quantity of Scallop that is greater than 10% by live weight of the total quantity of all species of fish retained on board or landed on that occasion. To qualify for an Authorisation, a vessel must either have: (i) carried out scallop fishing activity for at least 50 days at sea in the two and a half years up to 30 June 2005, or (ii) have sourced 100% replacement capacity from a vessel(s) which carried out scallop fishing activity for at least 50 days at sea in the two and a half years up to 30 June 2005.	DAFM	1, 3, 4, 6
M127	Develop sector specific guidance documentation and regional strategy plans for renewable energy growth and impact control.	DCCAE	7
M130	Develop and implement marine plans for all of Irish waters by 31st March 2021 at the latest.	DHPLG	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11



Measure Code	Description	Responsible authority	Descriptor
M149	Ensure dredging plans are incorporated into port master plans.	DTTAS	1, 4, 6, 7 8
M150	Implement the OSPAR Hazardous Substances Strategy.	DHPLG	8, 9
M151	Progressively implement the OSPAR Offshore Oil and Gas Industry Strategy.	DCCAIE	8, 10
M152	Implement OSPAR Decision 2000/2 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use and Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals (as amended by OSPAR Decision 2005/1).	DCCAIE	8
M153	Implement the OSPAR Recommendation 2005/2 on environmental goals for the use and discharge of OSPAR Priority Chemicals.	DCCAIE	8
M154	Apply OSPAR Recommendation 2006/3 on environmental goals for the phasing-out of discharges of substances identified as candidates for substitution.	DCCAIE	8
M155	Implement OSPAR Recommendation 2001/1 for the Management of Produced Water from Offshore Installations (as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2006/4).	DCCAIE	8
M156	Implement OSPAR Recommendation 2003/5 promoting the use and implementation of environmental management systems by the offshore industry.	DCCAIE	8, 10
M177	Regulate and appropriately monitor of dredging and disposal under the Foreshore Act 1993 (as amended)	DHPLG	1, 4, 6, 7, 8
M187	To continue to implement the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	DHPLG	10
M189	To continue efforts to improve business attitudes and behaviours around marine and coastal litter.	DHPLG	10
M194	To promote the use of the National Environmental Complaints Line and the reporting of environmental pollution, fly-tipping and illegal dumping of waste; including the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, funded by DECLG, including www.litter.ie .	DCCAIE	10
M206	Maintain and expand the Fishing for Litter Scheme.	BIM	10
M207	Continue to promote and support An Taisce's programme on Ocean Literacy.	DHPLG	1, 4, 6, 10
M212	To continue to apply the BIM Responsibly Sourced Standard for wild capture fisheries.	BIM	1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10
M213	To continue to raise awareness to tackle the sources of litter through the international environmental education programme Eco-Schools. This includes developing an international Eco-School module on marine litter with the Celtic Seas Partnership, Eco Schools (FEE - Copenhagen) and An Taisce.	An Taisce	10



Measure Code	Description	Responsible authority	Descriptor
M214	On-going implementation of the #2minutebeachclean/#Glantra2noimead initiative and expansion across all blue flag beaches in Ireland.	DHPLG	10
M223	To establish and maintain a register of noise in the Irish Marine Assessment Area.	DHPLG	11
M225	To apply the IMO I817:2014 Code On Noise Levels On Board Ships.	DTTAS	11

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