



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

www.marine.ie

WHO WE ARE

Our Vision

The Marine Institute is a national and international leader in ocean knowledge that benefits people, policy and planet.

Our Mission

The Marine Institute provides scientific research and development services to government, agencies, industry and society that support use of our maritime area, the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, and promote a shared understanding of the ocean.

Our Values

These values are the foundation of our culture. Living by these values, putting them into practice, and weaving them into all aspects of our work inspires our people to deliver excellence.

 **Commitment**

 **Excellence**

 **Collaboration**

 **Integrity**

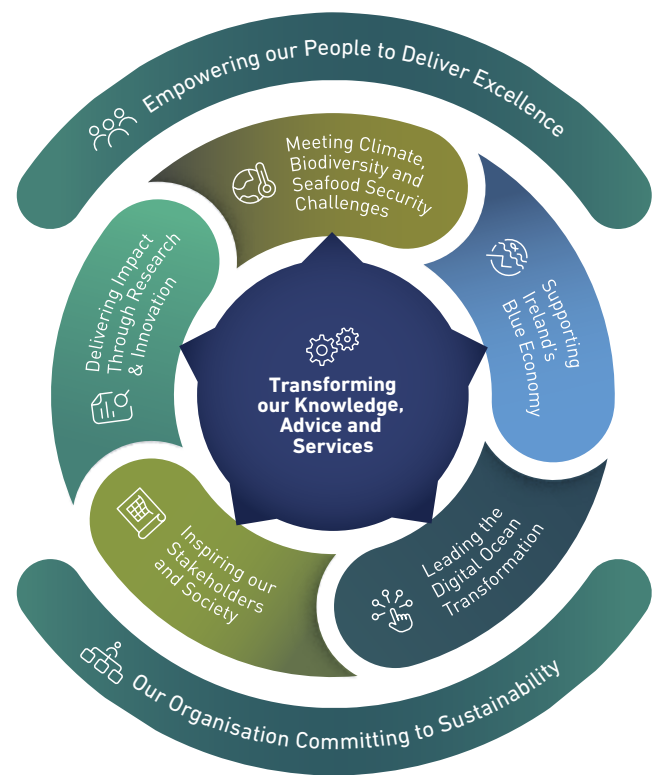
 **Innovation**

 **Respect**

The Marine Institute's Strategic Priorities 2023-2027

We have eight Strategic Priorities, set out for the period 2023-2027 in our corporate strategy, *Ocean Knowledge that Informs and Inspires*. Our strategy builds on the Marine Institute's resource base by leveraging national and international investment and funding, and our established track record of leadership and influence in key national and international networks and fora.

In line with the corporate strategy, this Annual Report is presented according to the eight Strategic Priorities:



CONTENTS

Welcome from the CEO	1
Statement from the Board	3
A Year in the Life of the Marine Institute	5
Strategic Priority 1 – Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services	7
Strategic Priority 2 – Meeting Climate, Biodiversity and Seafood Security Challenges	23
Strategic Priority 3 – Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation	37
Strategic Priority 4 – Leading the Digital Ocean Transformation	49
Strategic Priority 5 – Supporting Ireland's Blue Economy	58
Strategic Priority 6 – Empowering Our People to Deliver Excellence	70
Strategic Priority 7 – Our Organisation, Committing to Sustainability	77
Strategic Priority 8 – Inspiring Our Stakeholders and Society	81
Corporate Governance	89
Financial Statements	106
Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General	107
Governance Statement and Board Members' Report	109
Statement on Internal Control	115
Statement of Income and Expenditure Account and Retained Revenue Reserves	120
Statement of Comprehensive Income	121
Statement of Financial Position	122
Statement of Cash Flows	123
Notes to the Financial Statements	124

Welcome from the CEO

I am proud to present the Marine Institute's Annual Report 2024, a publication that reflects the remarkable achievements of our organisation over the past year. This report illustrates the extraordinary breadth of our work, showcasing how the dedication, expertise, and innovation of our teams translate into meaningful impacts across Ireland and beyond.

Driving positive change and delivering impact are at the core of all of our activities at the Marine Institute. By reporting on them annually we aim to show how our work delivers tangible benefits to our stakeholders, and demonstrate our accountability to the strategic priorities that guide us. This report highlights a selection of successes and compelling case studies from each of our eight Strategic Priorities.

The case studies included this year represent just a snapshot of the incredible breadth and depth of work undertaken by the Institute. As we reflect upon the past year, I am extremely proud of the Institute's commitment to innovation and leadership, driving transformative outcomes within our organisation, for our stakeholders and our networks, and for the environment.

As you explore this report, you'll find that collaboration – both across Government and internationally – is a cornerstone of our approach. The Marine Institute continues to provide vital supports for the work of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). The Marine Institute plays a critical role in delivering cutting-edge scientific analyses, expert advice, and specialised knowledge to decision-makers, stakeholders, and society in ways that are both accessible and actionable.

In particular, our trusted research, advice, and services support the implementation of key national and EU directives and policies, which are vital to building a sustainable ocean economy and protecting our marine ecosystems.

In 2024, the Marine Institute's work was defined by significant partnerships with industry, research organisations, and third-level institutes both in Ireland and globally. These international collaborations have continued to grow in scale and impact, and we are proud of our staff's leadership in high-profile ocean science committees and networks.

Our involvement in international partnerships enhances the Institute's knowledge base and global reputation, benefits the international community, and also has a positive impact on the professional and personal development of our staff.

Indeed, none of the achievements outlined in this report would have been possible without the dedication and expertise of the Marine Institute staff. Their continued passion, innovation, and resilience is crucial to realising our vision to be a global leader in ocean knowledge, empowering Ireland and its people to safeguard and harness our ocean wealth. I extend my sincere thanks to our team for their outstanding contributions, often delivered against a backdrop of rapid change and complex challenges.



My gratitude also goes to the Marine Institute Board for their steadfast oversight and commitment to the highest standards of corporate governance. Finally, I wish to thank all of our partners, stakeholders, and collaborators for their invaluable support throughout the year.

We look forward to building on our achievements and expanding our impact in 2025, with your continued partnership and support.

Dr Rick Officer,
CEO of the Marine Institute



Statement from the Board

To the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

In accordance with the requirements of the Marine Institute Act, 1991, we have the honour of presenting the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Marine Institute for the year ended 31 December 2024.

This Annual Report for 2024 presents the highlights of a hugely productive year in the life of the Marine Institute, and a wide range of case studies that showcase the diverse work taking place across the organisation and its impacts on our stakeholders, networks, and the environment.

The addition of these case studies to the annual publication is an effective way to demonstrate the breadth, impact and reach of our organisation, and how our work delivers on the eight strategic priorities in our five-year Corporate Strategy, *Ocean Knowledge that Informs and Inspires*.

It's clear also from this report that the Marine Institute is continuing, year-on-year, to innovate, to lead, and to deepen its impact both nationally and internationally. Since its formation, the Institute has risen to the challenge of forming strong partnerships, and leading and participating in a wide range of national and international scientific projects. We look forward to continuing these collaborations and forging new ones in the years ahead.

This Annual Report also details our Corporate Governance and Financial Statements for 2024. All of the Marine Institute's operations remain underpinned by best practice corporate governance and financial management, and it maintains the highest Governance Standards.

In 2024, the Marine Institute proudly marked its 20th consecutive year holding the Excellence Through People certification under the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) Standard ETP 1000:2017, with Platinum certification held through 2024. This signifies how the organisation values its staff, how teams collaborate and the positive impact achieved by focusing on our people and our collective success.

We'd like to thank CEO Dr Rick Officer and the Marine Institute staff for their commitment to excellence and collaboration which has helped to achieve everything you see presented in this Annual Report for 2024.

The Board of the Marine Institute



A Year in the Life of the Marine Institute

See Page 88 for photo credits.



Strategic Priority 1

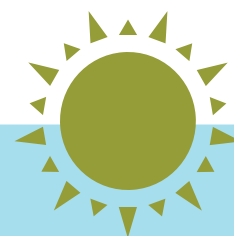
Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services



The Marine Institute has an important role in providing analyses of complex science, advice and specialist knowledge to decision-makers, stakeholders, and society in an accessible and understandable way.

Our science advice and service provision is across a wide range of areas, including sustainable fisheries, seafood safety, environmental monitoring, marine spatial planning, offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, socio-economic analysis, climate change monitoring, research supporting climate adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development of marine and maritime industries (Ireland's Blue Economy).

The Institute continues to excel in the delivery of trusted research, advice and services to meet the needs of the State, supporting the implementation of national and EU directives and policy areas.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024:

Ensuring Food Safety through the Marine Institute's Seafood Safety Programme

Through the Institute's comprehensive suite of Shellfish Safety Monitoring Programmes, shellfish samples were rigorously analysed in 2024 for marine biotoxins, faecal indicator bacteria, harmful human viruses, phytoplankton and harmful algal bloom species, and chemical contaminants. Additionally, the Institute continued its monitoring programme of chemical residues in finfish for the aquaculture sector in 2024 as approved by the European Commission, which is an important component of the Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine food safety controls. ISO 17025 Accreditation in the laboratories underpins and ensures the quality of our testing in these monitoring programmes. The shellfish microbiology team provided norovirus testing to 20 different oyster producers during 2024, ensuring access to export markets and compliance with the highest safety standards. These vital services ensure the highest levels of food safety and compliance with legislative requirements, and support the Irish aquaculture sector's growth and global reputation.



Roisin Latham and Bolaji Ojofeitimi.



Leading on Fisheries and Ecosystem Advice Internationally

The Institute, through our Fisheries Ecosystems and Advisory Services (FEAS), is involved with and leads the international production of fisheries and ecosystem advice.

This is primarily through two organisations, the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). Several FEAS team members chair expert working groups which are strategically aligned to national programmes and resource interests. At a national level, FEAS provides the expertise behind not only fisheries management advice, but also ecological and spatial analyses. These data provide advice on impacts which support key policies managed at the national level (such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and proposed Marine Protected Areas legislation).

The Marine Institute delivered the *2024 Stock Book* to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, which provides the latest impartial scientific advice to Government on the status of 74 key fish stocks of interest to Ireland. The publication is an invaluable reference guide for the Minister's team of Departmental officials, the fishing industry, marine scientists, environmental NGOs and third level institutes. The equivalent information for shellfish stocks was presented in the *Shellfish Stocks and Fisheries Review*.



Dr Rick Officer, CEO Marine Institute, presenting the *2024 Stock Book* to Sinéad McSherry, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Addressing Climate Risks with first National Climate Change Risk Assessment

The Marine Institute engaged in Ireland's first National Climate Change Risk Assessment that identifies key climate risks to various sectors of the economy including seafood.

A comprehensive guidance document, due for delivery in 2025, will provide insights to inform adaptation plans.

Delivering Assessments for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

In 2024, the Marine Institute completed critical assessments for Ireland's obligations under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Assessments were carried out for by-catch of endangered marine species, fish biodiversity, commercial fish and shellfish, marine foodwebs, contaminants in the marine environment, contaminants in seafood, eutrophication (nutrient enrichment), ocean acidification, and impacts on the seabed.

This work ensures Ireland's compliance with EU environmental goals, supporting marine conservation and sustainability. This work was carried out as part of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHLGH), the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), and the Marine Institute.

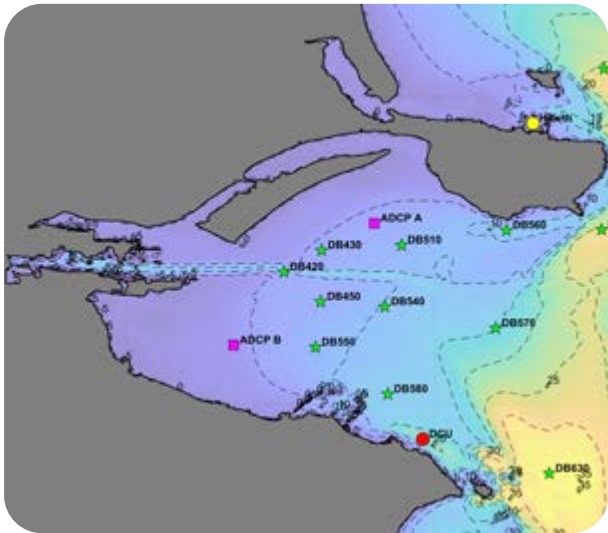
Expanding Seabed Mapping for Sustainable Resource Management

The Marine Institute's Advanced Mapping Services (AMS) extended Ireland's seabed mapping coverage, by acquiring 5,174 km² of detailed bathymetric survey data offshore Ireland, on board the *RV Tom Crean*. This represents an area greater than the size of County Donegal.

This expanded mapping of the seabed, delivered through the jointly managed Department of Environment, Climate and Communications funded, state-of-the-art INFOMAR programme with partners Geological Survey Ireland, provides critical baseline maps which increase our understanding of marine ecosystems and support marine spatial planning and decision-making for sustainable marine resource management.

Developing High-Resolution Modelling for Dublin Bay

The ocean modelling team developed a high-resolution model of Dublin Bay, integrating data from INFOMAR, Office of Public Works (OPW), United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and satellite imagery. This cutting-edge model supports critical stakeholders including An Garda Síochána, the Irish Coastguard, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), by enabling enhanced forecasting and emergency response capabilities.



Supporting the Irish Maritime Industry through Evidence-Based Advice

The Marine Institute, through the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO), provided updates and policy advice to the Department of Transport in relation to maritime freight transport, ports capacity, shipping services and ancillary industries.

Quarterly reports were prepared tracking shipping trends for 2024, with the annual *Irish Maritime Transport Economist* (IMTE) also published, providing an in-depth analysis of 2023 industry trends. The IMDO's advisory role to the Department in 2024 continued to have a strong focus on the development of Ireland's strategically important maritime industry and how it can best meet the needs of emerging sectors such as Offshore Renewable Energy and Alternative Fuels.

CASE STUDY

Improving the scientific basis for the management and long-term sustainability of Ireland's boarfish fishery

In 2024, the Marine Institute's Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS) team carried out a full review of all the available data and data gathering methods for the boarfish stock assessment. This was conducted as part of an International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) coordinated, peer-reviewed assessment benchmarking procedure.



Boarfish, which have a red and silver appearance, typically live at depths of 40-600 metres in large shoals. They are small fish – commonly just 10-15 centimetres in length. To date, they've mostly been used as fishmeal but there is increased interest in the species as a source of beneficial bioactive compounds and also as human food.

In the mid 2000s, a targeted fishery for boarfish in the Northeast Atlantic was established, primarily by the Irish pelagic industry. Initially, the fishery was unregulated and catches increased rapidly until Total Allowable Catch (TAC) based management was introduced in 2011. Ireland is the principal quota share holder with 70% of the total quota.

A new assessment method was developed by the FEAS team, which will have positive outcomes for the management and long-term sustainability of Ireland's boarfish fishery.



Strategic Priorities impacted:

- 1: Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services
- 2: Meeting Climate, Biodiversity and Security Challenges
- 5: Supporting Ireland's Blue Economy



Since 2012, scientific advice on the annual catch of boarfish has been provided by ICES. Close cooperation between the Marine Institute and the Irish pelagic industry resulted in the establishment of an acoustic survey, a catch sampling programme, and developing the biological knowledge base necessary to support a stock assessment.

The initial stock assessment method for boarfish was constrained, mainly due to data limitations with only a few years of survey data available. The assessment depended heavily on the acoustic survey and included a number of assumptions relating to the dynamics of the stock behaviour.

This approach necessitated additional precaution in the catch advice, in order to ensure the stock size remained at a sustainable level.

In recent years, there have been indications of a strong increase in the size of the boarfish stock – however, the framework for the provision of advice allowed for only modest increases in fishing opportunity for the Irish fleet. In order to maximise the sustainable yield available, a more responsive and detailed assessment method, capable of tracking rapid changes in stock size, was required.

The work undertaken by FEAS identified and investigated new data sources, which has led to the new assessment method for boarfish being developed. The method was accepted by ICES as the basis for advice provision for the boarfish stock for 2025 onwards.



What impact is the new assessment method having?

The new method is a significant improvement over the previous method as it makes full use of the available data, is more robust, and provides a more accurate method for monitoring the stock status and providing catch advice.

The new assessment method is classified by ICES as appropriate for the provision of advice that corresponds to the Maximum Sustainable Yield, whilst maintaining the stock within safe biological limits – in accordance with the aims of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

The updated method offers an improved ability to respond to recent increases in the size of the boarfish stock and has led to an increase of 40% in the advised catch for 2025, whilst ensuring the stock remains in a healthy state.

This increase represents an important opportunity for the Irish pelagic sector who were instrumental in establishing both the fishery and the data collection and information base upon which the assessment is based.

In recent years, the boarfish fishery has been worth approximately €5 million. The increased quota for 2025 will represent a significant increase in revenue for a sector that has been impacted by reductions in quota for other species. The assessment indicates that the stock size is currently close to a historic maximum.

Ongoing data collection in support of the stock assessment by the Marine Institute, along with national fisheries laboratories and collaboration with industry, should ensure continued improvement in the quality of the catch advice.

“

Since pioneering the boarfish fishery in 2010, working closely with the Marine Institute, Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO) members have funded, organised, and contributed to biological studies and acoustic surveys to improve the knowledge on this species. This data has been fed into ICES benchmark stock assessment process by the Institute which has enabled ICES to provide robust catch advice for boarfish, leading to a full analytical assessment (ICES Category 1) being provided by ICES in 2024. The new stock assessment will be used to provide annual catch advice based on a realistic measure of the boarfish biomass and productivity rather than being based largely on recent catches as was previously the case (ICES Category 3). This is seen by the KFO as clear evidence that strong industry-science collaboration and taking a science-based approach in developing new fisheries can yield a highly positive outcome.

”

Dominic Rihan, CEO of the Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation

CASE STUDY

The Fish Health Unit: Protecting Ireland's aquatic animal health status and enabling trade of aquaculture animals

The main objective of the Fish Health Unit (FHU) at the Marine Institute is to protect Ireland's high health status, thereby enabling safe trade of aquaculture animals within the country, as well as with overseas trading partners. Trade in this key sector of Ireland's Blue Economy is worth approximately €170 million per year to Ireland, and supports over 1,900 jobs.



As the Competent Authority for aquatic animal health, the FHU is responsible for approval of aquaculture establishments as well as implementation of risk-based disease surveillance, and the application of disease control measures. The FHU also works with operators to ensure compliance with legislative obligations concerning aquatic animal health.

Three National Reference Laboratories, which are also part of the FHU, support the Competent Authority in its role, by testing approximately 5,000 fish and 2,500 molluscs per year. The Competent Authority is also supported by a team of Veterinary Inspectors who are employed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, but who work to a schedule and procedures provided by the FHU.



Strategic Priorities impacted:
1: Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services
5: Supporting Ireland's Blue Economy

Approvals

In accordance with national legislation, all aquaculture establishments in Ireland must be approved by the Marine Institute. Without such approval, issued by the FHU, aquaculture establishments can't operate, even if they have an aquaculture licence. To be approved, an operator must have a system in place which demonstrates compliance with requirements concerning biosecurity, disease surveillance and record keeping, and they must have facilities and equipment that are adequate to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of diseases to an acceptable level.

All movements of aquaculture animals within the country, and consignments of animals and certain products imported to and exported from Ireland are notified to the FHU via its online portal at fishhealth.ie. On average, the FHU processes approximately 2,000 such movements a year (this involves applications being approved, the operator receiving an Approval Notice and a pre-export certification visit being arranged where necessary).



Inspections

The FHU carries out risk-ranking of aquaculture establishments (based on type of production, the nature of the trade and the location of the aquaculture establishment). Disease surveillance inspections are carried out according to the risk assessment – high risk sites are inspected once a year, medium risk sites are inspected every two years and low risk sites are inspected once every three years. Operators of finfish sites are also obliged to have a prescribed number of additional visits from their private veterinary practitioner.

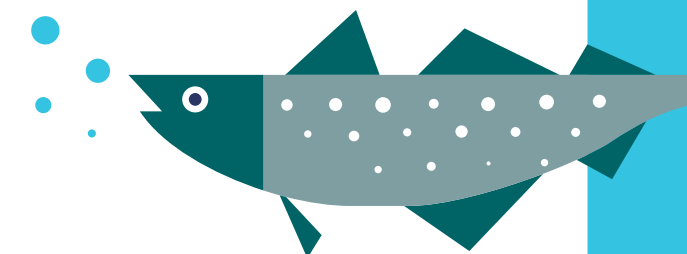


Bogna Griffin, Fish Health Unit.

Applied research

In addition to the statutory role described above, the Marine Institute works with industry and other stakeholders to identify applied research projects, which are designed to answer a particular need or issue. Current industry related projects include the development of new molecular techniques which will allow a number of pathogens to be identified at the same time (potentially using non-lethal means) and a project on the epidemiology and laboratory cultivation methods for *Piscirickettsia salmonis*, the ultimate aim of which is to facilitate the production of a vaccine against the disease.

The FHU also carries out work on wild aquatic animals when required, including a current project on novel surveillance methods for Crayfish Plague, in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).



What impact is the Fish Health Unit having?

Given that each aquaculture establishment in Ireland must be approved by the FHU before it can operate, and that all internal movements, as well as imports and exports must be approved by the Unit, the impact is evident, given that the Irish aquaculture industry has a high health status, functions well and is profitable.

Ireland's high health status concerning diseases listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (the Animal Health Law) has been successfully maintained through disease surveillance and movement controls, thereby enabling Ireland to trade widely within the European Economic Area and also with third countries.

Ireland is an internationally recognised producer of salmon eggs, both for our own use and for export. The various inspection, surveillance and certification duties that the FHU carries out not only underpin that trade but also protect Ireland in terms of imports of ova. These tasks are fundamental in the context of the overall sustainability of the salmon industry in Ireland. The FHU plays an important statutory role concerning the control of listed diseases in Ireland, and also works with industry to encourage ongoing compliance with a Code of Practice for non-listed diseases, thereby supporting the sustainable operation of all aquaculture establishments in the country.

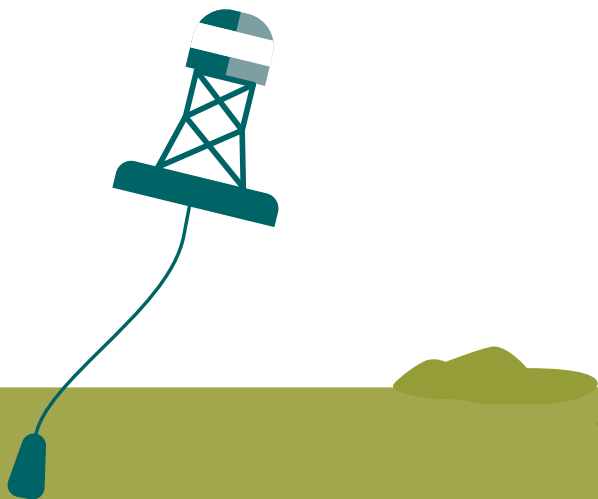


“

The maintenance by all Irish aquaculture production businesses of a fish health management plan is integral to ensuring that Ireland’s high-level aquatic animal health status will be maintained, and aquatic diseases controlled. IFA Aquaculture and industry stakeholders work collaboratively with the FHU as part of the Marine Institute/ IFA Fish Health Liaison Group. This group provides a forum for direct communication between the Marine Institute and the finfish industry with a view to ensuring the development of a strategic plan for fish health management in Ireland and identifying a targeted approach to applied research needs on industry issues as they arise.

”

Teresa Morrissey, Executive Secretary,
Irish Farmers Association Aquaculture



CASE STUDY

Acquiring key geophysical marine survey data in Ireland’s South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) to inform offshore wind infrastructure planning

Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs) provide for the sustainable development of offshore wind energy through consideration of environmental protection and existing marine users and activities.



The Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE), published by the Government in May 2024, outlined the key objectives driving development of Ireland’s considerable offshore resources:

- 1 Decarbonising the Irish economy in line with legally binding national and international climate ambitions;
- 2 Ensuring long-term energy security; and,
- 3 Developing green industrial opportunities for energy utilisation and for export markets.

The requirement for technical and scientific advice from the Marine Institute to support offshore wind development in Irish waters has been increasing, in tandem with new national energy policies.



Strategic Priorities impacted:
1: Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services
2: Meeting Climate, Biodiversity and Security Challenges
4: Leading the Digital Ocean Transformation
5: Supporting Ireland’s Blue Economy

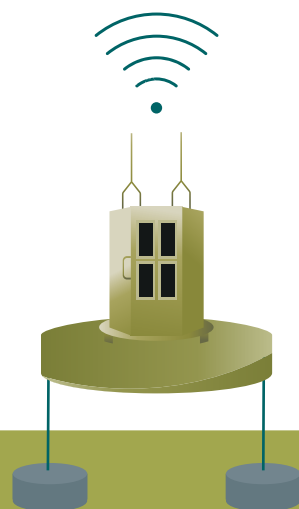


Ambitious targets have been set for the delivery of ORE in Ireland's exclusive economic zone: 20GW by 2040; and at least 37GW in total by 2050 – six times Ireland's current electricity demand. Ireland's policy in this area will also contribute to Europe's goal of making the EU climate-neutral by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement.

In development of the South Coast DMAP – the first DMAP in Ireland – the Marine Institute acquired and supplied key geophysical marine survey data for the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) to de-risk the 2025 ORESS 2.1 and 2.2 auctions for developers. In support of future ORE decision making, the Marine Institute also developed an easy-to-use digital tool to manage ORE related data as part of the Offshore Wind Energy Programme.

Work on acquiring the geophysical marine survey data began with the provision of the INFOMAR derived DMAP boundary and the commissioning of related desk studies in 2023 and 2024 to investigate survey noise impact on fisheries and to determine the publicly available geophysical data status in the DMAP. The collation of licence application documentation was commissioned, enabling DECC to apply to Marine Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a maritime usage licence for the required survey work.

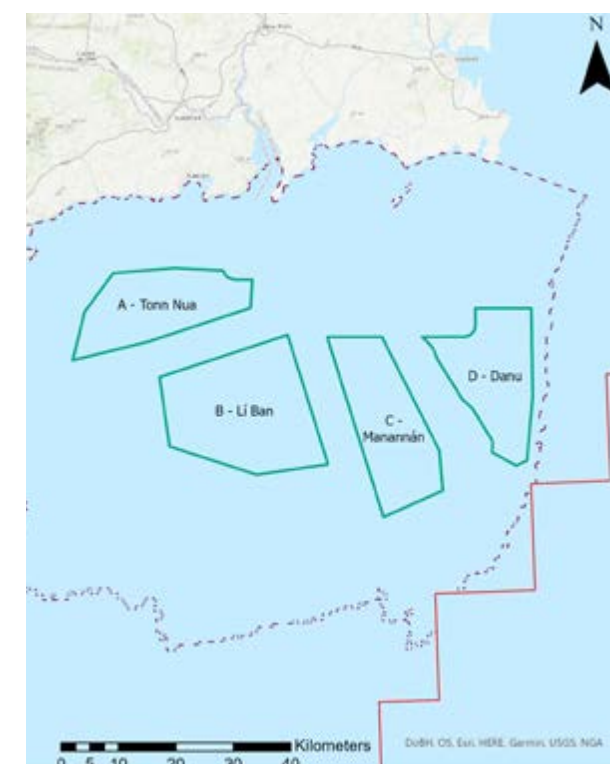
52 vessel days were assigned on the national research vessel, *RV Tom Crean*. Two very successful survey campaigns were undertaken between July and early September 2024. These were scheduled ahead of the annual herring spawning season later in the year to minimise any impact on fishing activity in the area.



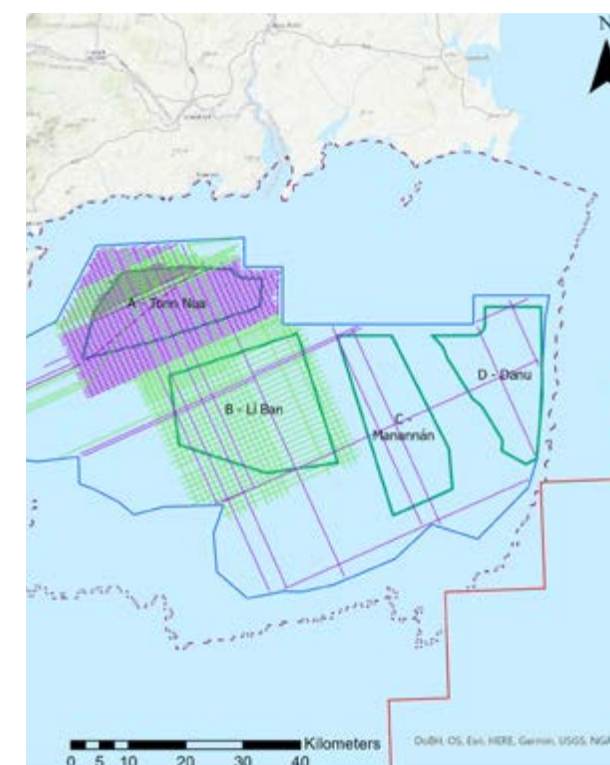
In total, 4,742 survey line kilometres of ultra-high resolution multi-channel seismic (UHRs) data, sub-bottom profile, and multibeam data were acquired. Processed data show complex geology in the area, with varying depth to bedrock, buried sediment channel features, and mobile surface sediments including large sand waves.

Tonn Nua (Site A – highest priority) was fully mapped to specification and a significant portion of Li Ban (Site B) was also surveyed with a further higher resolution survey required to complete. Additional regional data was acquired in the transit corridor from Cork east to the above areas, and west and south into site C and D. These data will be integral to informing regional ground model development and de-risking the South Coast DMAP auction process in 2025.

To achieve the programme of geophysical survey work, several small and medium enterprises (SMES) were engaged including environmental scientists, geoscientists, hydrographers, marine mammal observers, and fisheries liaison officers.



Maritime Areas A to D proposed for offshore wind development in the South Coast DMAP



ORE Geophysical Survey production map of Ultra High Resolution Seismic data acquired by Marine Institute onboard *RV Tom Crean* in the South Coast DMAP during 2024

What impact is this work having?

While some historic localised research projects had been undertaken, this was the first systematic multichannel ultra-high resolution reconnaissance seismic survey undertaken in the south coast area, and the first such survey by the State, increasing government capacity to directly deliver necessary baseline data to accelerate offshore wind development.

Access to a single state acquired dataset mitigated the need for interested ORE companies to undertake their own reconnaissance surveys. This avoids the cumulative effects that would have been associated with multiple similar surveys.

The data gathered by the Marine Institute is invaluable in informing infrastructure emplacement planning and installation options, future industry survey requirements, and in securing a competitive auction for the first of the Plan-Led wind energy sites (planned for 2025) and the best energy unit pricing for the State.

Aside from assisting DECC in the upcoming auction process, the data and information exchange with Eirgrid has been beneficial in informing their infrastructure planning (cable and sub-station), their survey planning, and their public and fisheries engagement approach.

Following public consultation periods, the South Coast DMAP was approved by the Houses of the Oireachtas in October 2024.

The Marine Institute demonstrated through this work that it has the technical capacity, and domain knowledge to further develop national survey infrastructure and capabilities. It also demonstrated the Institute's competence in management, processing, integration, and dissemination of the associated data, and in building national capacity to support future government requirements, whether DMAP or auction development related, or planning or compliance specific.

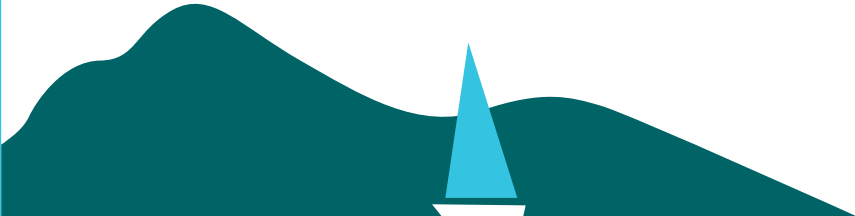


The successful delivery of the survey campaign has helped to heighten industry confidence in the State's ability to deliver a Plan-Led ORE Regime, building on the Phase 1 bid success attributed to INFOMAR data availability.

The near survey-live ArcGIS online project developed by the team will prove to be a key tool in demonstrating the survey achievements and data outputs, and in planning any such future activities.



An **ORE Digital Support Tool** was developed in 2024 by the Marine Institute Information Services and Development team for the Offshore Environment & Future Development team in the Department of the Environment, Communications and Climate Action (DECC). The team needed an easy-to-use internal digital tool to provide a single point of access to relevant marine data for teams in the division. The requirement included the provision of controlled access to working data with some basic spatial analysis capabilities that can develop as requirements arise. More than 100 datasets, originating from a range of programmes, were reused and allowed the rapid development of the tool.



The ORE Digital Tool has been implemented successfully, in partnership with the Marine Institute, and provides the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications team with easy access to usable, visual and high-quality data that can be shared across teams. The ultimate purpose is to support decision-makers and policy-makers with marine spatial planning for ORE. In particular, the tool will support the designation of maritime areas suitable for ORE development and policy in the context of the plan-led regime for ORE. This has enabled a better understanding of many of the criteria and considerations related to ORE development in marine areas and will be an important support for future decisions concerning ORE policy.



Jo Coloe, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications ORE Data & Surveying Team

Strategic Priority 2

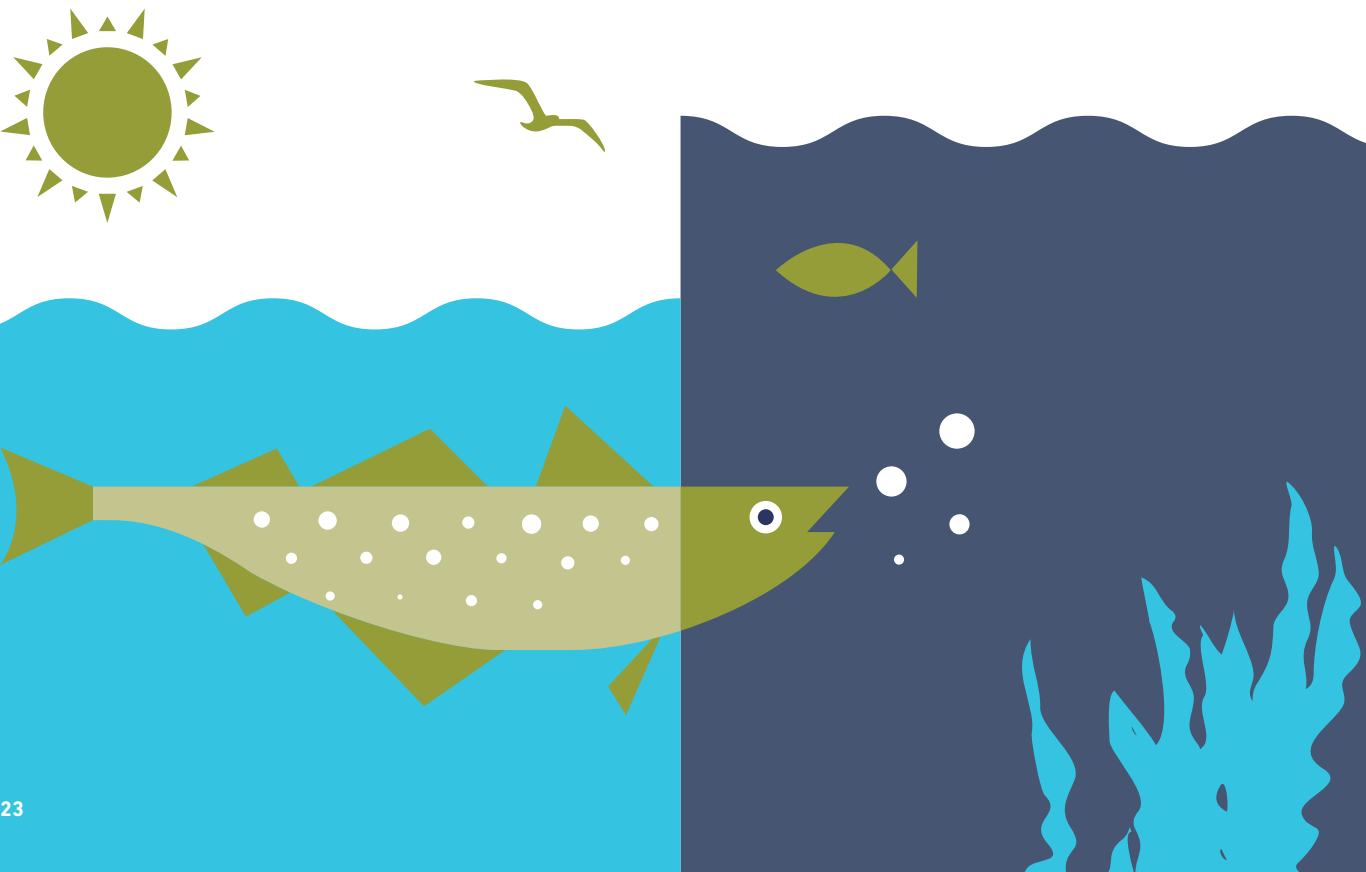
Meeting Climate, Biodiversity and Seafood Security Challenges



Leveraging Ireland’s geographic location at Europe’s frontier with the Atlantic, the Marine Institute is a key player in the national effort needed to meet the ambitious commitments and targets set out in Ireland’s Climate Action Plan 2024.

Robust advice and operational forecasting on our changing ocean and climate are essential for Government to make effective policies and management decisions to address a range of issues and challenges. These include changing fish distributions, seafood security, low carbon economy, sea-level rise, flooding and, increasingly, extreme weather events.

To meet these challenges, the Marine Institute is continually developing new research partnerships and service delivery arrangements with Government and its agencies, as well as investing in global and national observation and data collection infrastructure. The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) programme serves as a key enabler in addressing sectoral challenges linked to climate change and biodiversity.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

RV Celtic Explorer Travels to Greenland for Glacier Research Survey

In July, the RV *Celtic Explorer* set sail to west Greenland to facilitate a collaborative research survey between American universities. The voyage took the research vessel to remote locations beyond its typical expeditions in Irish waters, for scientists to observe how glaciers are changing, using innovative technology. Understanding the detailed mechanics of moraine-building (moraines are produced when sediment builds up at the termini of outlet glaciers) will allow for far more accurate sea-level projecting models of ice sheets to be built, furthering our resilience to climate change.



Collecting Data on Ocean Health with Annual Ocean Climate Survey

The Marine Institute’s annual Ocean Climate Survey took place from 22 June to 5 July, collecting essential physical and chemical information on the health of the ocean, and monitoring changes with time. Each year, the Survey focuses on deep waters off Ireland’s west coast, particularly in the Rockall Trough, as well as shallower areas of our continental shelf. Essential Ocean Variable data was collected from the sea surface down to full ocean depth. The survey was completed successfully, despite encountering a significant summer storm with waves more than six metres high. The data collected feeds into regional and global studies (North Atlantic – ICES and the Global Ocean Observing System), enhancing understanding of ocean changes over time.



Providing Vital Weather and Climate Data

The Irish Marine Data Buoy Observation Network (IMDBON) is a network of five offshore marine observation buoys around Ireland. Since 2001, it has been reporting hourly weather measurements of air temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind speed and direction, as well as sea surface temperature, wave height and wave period. The Network's data is used by Met Éireann's forecasting systems, shared globally through the World Meteorological Organisation's Global Telecommunications System, and quality controlled for climatological purposes.



The IMDBON has improved Ireland's ability to monitor key Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) on an operational basis and strengthens Ireland's capacity to respond to climate and weather-related challenges. As well as weather forecasting, the Network provides vital data for shipping bulletins, gale and swell warnings for seafarers, oceanographic and environmental monitoring, climate observations, public information, and research.

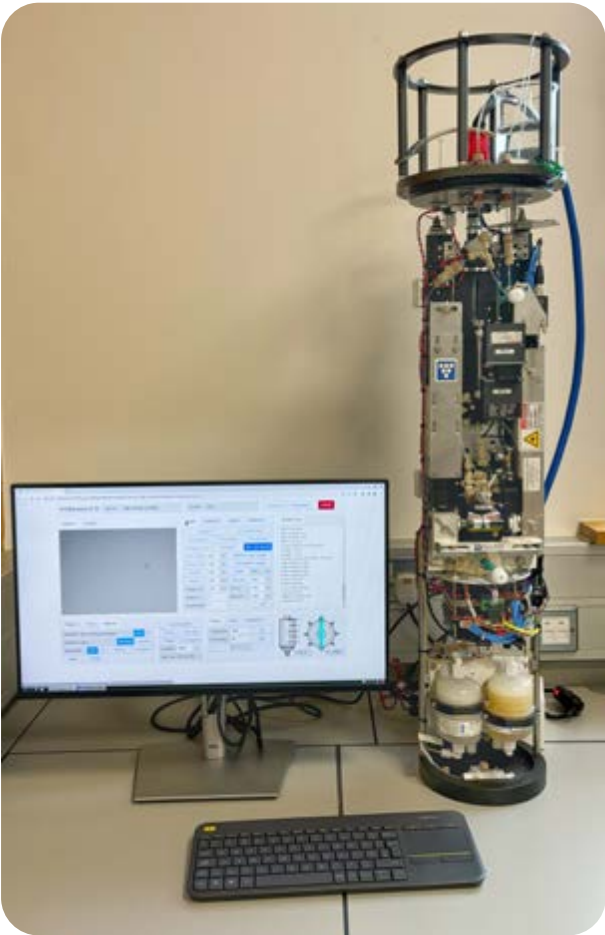
Protecting Species and Stocks

The Marine Institute implements the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund's Marine Biodiversity Scheme through an approved series of nine fisheries and seven aquaculture related projects. An exemplary project examines the 'Management of the Crayfish Fishery to Protect Critically Endangered Species', and aims to resolve the issue of by-catch of endangered species, reduce interaction between set net fisheries and wildlife (seals, porpoises, dolphin) and endangered species (skates and rays), to assess crayfish stocks, and to develop low impact, viable and sustainable pot fisheries. Progress was made on all seven work packages in 2024, demonstrating tangible steps towards marine biodiversity conservation.

A major new European project, coordinated by the Marine Institute and funded by the Horizon Europe programme, launched in February. Marine Beacon addresses gaps in our understanding of how bycatch impacts Protected, Endangered and Threatened species in the Atlantic, and will develop methods to better monitor and mitigate these impacts. Marine Beacon involves 21 research, technology, and fisheries partners from nine countries to work across our regional seas. This collaboration will ensure that new monitoring and mitigation tools are effective and feasible, achieve long-term application and impact, and deliver healthier seas and more sustainable fisheries.

New remote sensing instrument to observe offshore Harmful Algal Bloom events

A new in-situ remote sensing instrument, which has the capacity of imaging up to 10,000 plankton species in each seawater sample, was successfully installed and deployed aboard the RV *Tom Crean* during the Marine Institute's annual phytoplankton coastal survey in August 2024. The Imaging Flow Cytobot significantly enhances the Phytoplankton team's abilities and capacities to detect and observe Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) events and species occurring offshore. Identifying HAB events and their potential to affect inshore aquaculture operations enables the team to issue advanced warnings and alerts. These are of huge benefit to shellfish producers/processors, fisheries management and competent authorities, assisting in decision making and risk management to mitigate against socio economic losses and harm to marine ecosystems.



Monitoring Long-Term Oceanic Data

The global Argo programme is the first-ever global in-situ ocean observing network in the history of oceanography. With its high-quality sensors, global spatial and temporal coverage, and large depth range, Argo is well-suited to monitor year to year fluctuations and long-term trends in ocean heat content.

Argo data is now the most abundant source of underwater temperature, salinity and pressure profiles in the ocean. This data helps scientists understand how the physical state of the ocean is changing over time and is used by weather and climate centres to help understand the way the oceans affect climate. The Marine Institute's contribution to the global programme, through Euro-Argo ERIC, consists of 14 floats and has delivered 3,628 salinity and temperature profiles (as of 17 December 2024) from the water surface to minus 2,000 metres depth. This data contributes to climate science and policy on a global scale.



Furthering Information and Related Research on Marine Protected Areas

The Marine Institute's Advanced Mapping Services team, in collaboration with University College Cork (UCC) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), hosted a Marine Protected Areas (MPA) workshop and funded Remote Operated Vehicle deployments. This work is building on AI based data analytics research collaboration with the University of Plymouth and CEFAS, involving automated Sea Pen identification in historic Irish *Nephrops* survey video data.

The Marine Institute supported the Celtic Sea's sensitivity analysis, which is the report upon which the evidence base for Spatial Planning Areas (SPAs) in the Celtic Sea will be based. The Institute is also involved with several Higher Education funded projects working on MPAs such as BioProtect.

Providing Crucial Data for Seafood Security

The Marine Institute provides the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with annual sustainability statements for over 70 commercially exploited species, forming the basis of Ireland's fishery resource policies. This information ensures Ireland's seafood industry remains viable, underpinning its global reputation for sustainable practices.



Providing Climate Projections to Inform Decision-Making

The JPI-Oceans/JPI-Climate funded CE2COAST project ended in 2024. This project involved the Marine Institute utilising its Celtic Sea Ocean model to carry out climate projections. The project generated high-resolution gridded ocean physics and biogeochemistry data for the period 1993 – 2021, and projection data for 2015 – 2075. CE2COAST and the previous BIOCELTIC project has built important climate modelling capacity, which has been used throughout 2024.

Funded by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), the ocean climate modelling team developed a new kilometre-scale ocean model of the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This model will provide ocean climate projections under different emission scenarios, enabling fisheries and aquaculture sectors to plan adaptations for climate change impacts. The data will also underpin sectoral climate services and serve as a critical resource for policy decisions.



CASE STUDY

Marine Institute success in tagging extremely rare angel shark species

Data from the electronic tags on two angel sharks – tagged by the Marine Institute in autumn 2024 – will be fundamental in developing conservation plans for the species in Irish and European waters.



In 2022, the Marine Institute began a large-scale fish tracking (telemetry) study in Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry. One of the core priorities of this research was to investigate the movements and behaviour of endangered elasmobranchs (sharks, rays and skates) such as undulate ray, common stingray, flapper skate and angel shark, within the bay, and attempt to identify why this location is so important for these species.

The project also sets out to investigate the interaction of these species with local commercial fisheries and to identify methods to reduce bycatch of these animals. Tralee Bay has been described as a 'jewel in the crown' of Irish marine life due to the presence of some of the rarest shark, skate and ray species in Europe. These include flapper skate and angel shark, which are critically endangered. Reported numbers of the angel shark, which has a lifespan of up to 35 – 40 years, have declined dramatically since the 1960s and sightings today are rare. The tagging project within Tralee Bay involves working closely with local fishermen. As part of the ongoing research, two angel sharks were successfully tagged and released in Tralee Bay by the Marine Institute in autumn 2024. It was a ground-breaking development for marine conservation in Ireland as this was the first (and second) time ever that an angel shark has been fitted with an electronic tag in Irish waters.



Strategic Priorities impacted:
2: Meeting Climate, Biodiversity and Security Challenges
3: Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation



Local fisherman Michael Peter Hennessy was on his fishing boat, along with Marine Institute staff when they were able to carefully bring two angel sharks (one male and one female) on board, one week apart. They were each tagged with a Pop-off Satellite Archival Tag (PSAT) by the Marine Institute before being released safely back into the water.

The electronic tags will remain attached to the angel sharks for 12 months as they log key information. After this, the tags will automatically detach from the sharks and float to the surface.

The data stored in the tag will begin transmitting back to the Marine Institute scientists who can plot where the individual sharks have been over the previous 12 months. It is hoped that more angel shark specimens will be similarly tagged in 2025.



The tagging is part of a larger project on reducing the effects of fisheries on non-target species, which involves teams of observers working at sea with fishermen. The project is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF).



What impact is this work having?

The Pop-off Satellite Archival Tags on the angel sharks will give vital data to help scientists understand the movements of the species, their migrations, where they feed and where they might breed.

The electronic data from this tagging and others like it in the programme are also central to developing conservation plans for rare and endangered species, including the designation of Marine Protected Areas. The data will be fundamental for future conservation strategies, aiming to safeguard the survival of the rare angel shark in Irish and European waters

The angel shark tagging was communicated by the Marine Institute to a wide audience (including an interview on RTÉ Radio One's Morning Ireland), raising awareness about the tagging programme, the angel shark species itself, and the importance of conserving marine species.

Another impact of the tagging programme is that the Marine Institute has developed expertise over the past few years to the degree that it's now the preferred team for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) Satellite Tagging Programme. Work has also developed with a group of partners in the Loughs Agency and third level institutes, who rely on Marine Institute authorisations to undertake the skilled process of capturing, tagging and releasing unharmed live animals.



Few, if any, of us will ever see an angel shark in the water, and even if we did, it may not mean much. So why care? Because their presence – and, most importantly, their ability to successfully breed – is a good indicator that the seas are doing well.



Environmental journalist Ella McSweeney in her *Irish Times* article, "Angel sharks are now so rare that maritime scientists can go an entire career without seeing one."



[Read the *Irish Times* article](#)



[Watch Video on YouTube](#)



CASE STUDY

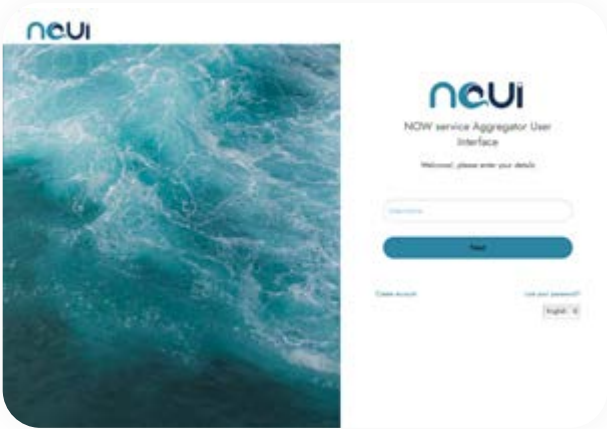
Operational coastal modelling service in support of biodiversity restoration and oyster aquaculture in Galway Bay

The Marine Institute’s ocean observing and modelling programme provides deeper understanding of how ocean conditions have evolved over past years and helps to predict how the marine environment may evolve under different climate scenarios. One such service in Galway Bay is helping to support oyster aquaculture and aid the restoration of wild native oysters in the bay.



Galway Bay has a population of European native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) that is depleted relative to its historic levels when it supported a commercial fishery for centuries, along with a wide range of bivalve mariculture production sites. To aid the restoration of wild native oyster and to support oyster farming in the bay, it’s crucial to identify areas suitable for both oyster farming and for oyster settlements, based on the prevailing environmental conditions.

-
- Strategic Priorities impacted:
1: Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services
2: Meeting Climate, Biodiversity and Security Challenges
3: Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation
4: Leading the Digital Ocean Transformation
5: Supporting Ireland’s Blue Economy



To support these aims, the Marine Institute partnered with NOW Systems (Spain) to develop an online platform that provides information on hydrodynamic conditions in Galway Bay. The BIODIVER-COAST project is funded by Mercator Ocean International under the Copernicus Marine Service User Engagement Programme 2022-2028. It began in July 2023 and runs until January 2025.

The platform is a web oceanographic service (biodiver.naui.io) which helps overcome challenges in achieving sustainable bivalve mariculture, oyster ground restoration, and restoration of biodiversity in Galway Bay. The challenges include disease outbreaks, siltation, low salinity events and, in the past, poor fisheries management.

The purpose of BIODIVER-COAST is two-fold: to identify areas with suitable habitat for both oyster farming and for oyster settlements based on the prevailing environmental conditions, and to provide information on upcoming unfavourable conditions, such as low salinity events (which can be caused by occasional or sustained high river freshwater inputs) and heatwaves, so oyster farmers can take actions to protect their stocks.

With the climate mapping service, oyster farmers can now identify how, over the last 10 years, the conditions change, both in terms of long-term trends and short-term variability. They can relate these changes in conditions to the impacts they have in the area.

This information is useful in understanding the inter- and intra-annual dynamics in Galway Bay. It allows the identification of areas under the influence of freshwater, and areas that have suitable conditions of bottom shear stress and kinetic energy for oysters. Importantly, the data also identifies areas prone to excessive warming during heatwaves.

All of these aspects are of concern, as they increase oyster mortality. A mortality model applied to the 10 years of model data across the entire Galway Bay shows that many, but not all, coastal locations have clearly increased mortalities, mostly in the areas of freshwater discharges, whereas, seaward of estuaries, the temperature and salinity do not appear to add to mortality of oysters. An oyster mortality model, which calculates mortality based on salinity, temperature and exposure time, has also been built to develop a map of the estimated 10-year total mortality throughout Galway Bay.

The forecasting service on the platform is customisable, with a traffic light warning system where green represents safe conditions, orange shows the condition is of minor concern, and red indicates the conditions are of major concern, based on the thresholds defined by individual end users.





What impact is BIODIVER-COAST having?

In the short-term, with the help of the forecasting system, oyster farmers in Galway Bay can make better informed decisions whether to handle the oysters or not, based on the events that may increase mortality such as the heatwave of June 2023.

In this case, the oyster farmers were able to see in advance that the temperature was going up by 4-5 degrees and they were able to stop handling and put in place measures to try to protect the stock.

Apart from the heatwave of June 2023, the analysis of the model 10 year hindcast showed that previous increased mortality events were caused by unusually low salinities. One such event took place in February and March 2020 when the salinity remained at low values in the south-east part of the bay, where oyster farms are located. Thanks to the modelling service, the oyster farmers were able to relate the high mortalities experienced at several sites to the low salinity event, caused by high rainfall accumulations at the time.

Stakeholders also use the modelling service for Galway Bay for backtracking coliform bacteria contamination observed at oyster farms (when they occur). One such event took place in late October 2024, when contaminated clams were identified at Killeenaran production site.

Backtracking simulations showed high river inputs into the bay during the days on the run up to the event and that immediately prior to the event, the production site remained under the influence of waters coming from the Mutton Island and River Corrib mouth areas.

A follow on project, BIODIVER-COAST 2, is being funded under the same programme and will run until July 2026. Main developments are: geographical extension to Dublin Bay, provision of biogeochemical variables for Galway and Dublin Bays, and marine heatwaves monitoring in Galway Bay.

“

The web oceanographic service has had enormous positive impacts on proactive shellfish management in Galway Bay. Forecasting of low salinity events and mapping of sustainable habitats for native oyster restoration efforts have increased the sustainability of aquaculture in the region and the capacity to restore native oyster reefs in Inner Galway Bay, respectively.

”

Diarmuid Kelly, Founding Member & Chair, Cuan Beo Environmental CLG



CASE STUDY

Our Shared Ocean – Building Research Partnerships Between Ireland and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Our Shared Ocean is part of Ireland’s response to the environmental and socio-economic issues facing many Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These island nations, collectively home to around 50 million people, are dealing with specific environmental challenges brought about by climate change and are particularly vulnerable to sea-level rises and extreme weather events.

SIDS often share further characteristics including having small, geographically isolated populations; separation from international markets leading to increased transport costs; and higher than average debt burdens. Due to their smaller land sizes and often large ocean territories, many SIDS also rely strongly on extractive ocean economy activities such as fisheries, which are themselves impacted by changing climate and ocean conditions. All these factors contribute to a reduced ability to prioritise and resource climate change mitigation and to develop practical solutions.



Developing community engagement and ocean literacy campaigns in Haiti.

Our Shared Ocean addresses these challenges by building strategic research partnerships with SIDS and fostering collaborative international marine research. The programme is managed by the Marine Institute and funded by Irish Aid, Ireland’s programme for overseas development. The programme helps Ireland to meet its commitments set out under the Global Ireland initiative and including our second strategy for partnering with SIDS.

Strategic Priorities impacted:
2: Meeting Climate, Biodiversity & Seafood Security Challenges
3: Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation
7: Our Organisation, Committing to Sustainability

What types of projects are taking place?

A wide variety of projects have been developed under three main themes – Oceans & Climate, Inclusive & Sustainable Blue Economy, and Marine Policy & Ocean Governance. The project types include Mobility and Travel grants, Masters Scholarships, Research Fellowships, and project awards.

Our projects are developed directly by researchers from SIDS in response to specific local island concerns or co-designed with Ireland's research community. The projects provide practical training opportunities, knowledge-transfer and capacity development. They leverage the expertise Ireland, as a small island, has accrued in its marine sector.

Projects to date include Blue Carbon studies in Fiji and Belize; Nature-based Solutions for coastal adaptation in Timor-Leste; coral reef and fish biodiversity studies in Grenada, Palau and Guam; predictions of hurricane intensity across the Caribbean, and a citizen science project in Haiti.



In May 2024, the Our Shared Ocean Podcast was launched – bringing stories of lived experience of the environmental and economic challenges facing many Small Island Developing States. Each podcast episode takes a deep dive into a particular Our Shared Ocean project, with a range of guests talking through the challenges and solutions being worked on in the course of their project.



Monitoring and measuring healthy coral reef in Guam.

What impact is Our Shared Ocean having?

To date, 19 projects and more than 80 travel grants have been awarded through competitive funding calls to partners in 27 SIDS and regional partners. Although many of the projects have not yet concluded, there is clear growth, ambition and capacity-development demonstrated in their individual objectives.

An excellent example of this is the partnership between University of Belize and University College Cork, co-hosting a Research Fellowship to map vital coastal seagrass ecosystems. The same partnership now includes additional Belizean partners and a Masters scholarship element, showing how projects are building capacity and demonstrating self-sustained growth.

Another successful partnership between St George's University in Grenada and the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) has seen the graduation of the first Our Shared Ocean Masters student with a MSc. in Applied Marine Conservation, another two students will graduate in 2025. The students undertook a taught component in Galway before developing research projects in Grenada.

Similarly, an Irish-led project-team based in ATU Sligo has developed research partnerships across multiple campuses in the University of West Indies that combine ecosystem adaptation and digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, to enhance climate resilience.

These kinds of inter-related, multidisciplinary projects bring together the expertise of multiple international partners to work together on practical solutions to regional climate threats.

Our Shared Ocean now supports a wide range of direct-funded projects with multiple SIDS research partners. This empowers the SIDS researchers to focus fully on the specific research challenges and fosters parity of esteem between them and their Irish counterparts.

These direct-funded projects include a citizen science project in Haiti, focused on building vital marine education and community engagement platforms.

In the western Pacific, Our Shared Ocean is funding the development of a digital tool where biodiversity data from multiple islands can be uploaded in real-time to facilitate fisheries management decisions during damaging marine heatwaves. Several regional SIDS and island partners are involved in this project, all of whom will benefit from this integrated data-to-management tool.

Since 2022, Our Shared Ocean has worked to remove barriers to all SIDS engaging in this international funding opportunity, and has increased the number of eligible island nations from 38 to 58. This includes non-Official Development Assistance (ODA) states and certain Regional Territories, recognising that some islands are jurisdictionally isolated and disadvantaged from accessing aid.

Our Shared Ocean was endorsed as a 'transformative Decade Action' by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. This has raised the profile of the project internationally, by providing a platform to communicate the vision and values of the project, connect with international research networks, and better promote and establish funding or training opportunities within SIDS.

The collaboration has resulted in the contribution to, and creation of, an online self-led training course in Co-Design, which details an approach to problem-solving focused on inclusion and engagement with all SIDS stakeholders within a particular field or focus.



Our new automated database, developed through Our Shared Ocean funding, rapidly evaluates the impacts of marine heatwaves on coral reefs enabling effective management decisions in real-time.



Dr Peter Houk, Professor of Coral Reef and Fisheries Ecology Marine Laboratory, University of Guam Marine Laboratory



My research into Nature-Based Solutions and the effects of climate-induced risk experienced by coastal communities in both Timor-Leste and Ireland has applications for all Small Island Developing States which are suffering disproportionately under a changing climate. The Our Shared Ocean programme funds this vital research and has enabled me to continue my studies in Ireland while focusing on issues of my home island of Timor-Leste.



Arsenia Da Craz, PhD candidate, co-supervised by the Department of Geography at University of Galway and the Centre for Climate Change and Biodiversity Timor-Leste



[Learn more](#) about Our Shared Ocean

Strategic Priority 3

Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation



The Marine Institute has a multi-faceted role as a national research body. The Institute is a research performing organisation, a research funding organisation and, in line with its mandate, has a key role in coordinating, supporting and promoting Irish-based marine researchers and research.

As a research performer, the Institute research covers a wide range of areas such as marine resource management, ecosystem assessments, biodiversity, bycatch of endangered species, fish genetics, climate change and its impact on our oceans and catchments, maritime economics and marine socio-economics, food safety and fish health, seabed mapping and data, digital twins, and spatial technologies.

Research and innovation are critical in providing knowledge to inform government policy, decision-making and sectoral development across a broad range of marine and maritime areas. The Marine Institute fosters and supports impactful research, providing critical knowledge and innovation for public policy and sectoral development.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024:

New investment of €14.1 million in 2024 in Marine Research

The Institute's competitive Marine Research Funding Programme invested a total of €14.1 million (€4.7 million for ship-time and €9.4 million for project awards) across a range of new calls and awards in 2024.

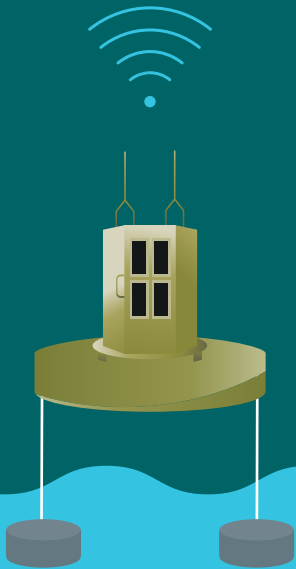
Two flagship calls were launched during the year. A total of €3.3 million was committed to fund 10 projects under the Marine Institute's Industry-Led Awards scheme. These awards will help marine and maritime Small and Medium Enterprises to build their Research & Development capabilities and develop new products, processes and Intellectual Property.

This is a key Marine Institute programme in supporting economic development within our ocean economy. The primary beneficiaries are the successful companies but impact is also felt by researchers in Higher Education Institutes who partner with these companies and deliver these research projects and outcomes.

The second flagship call launched during 2024 was Changing Use of Ireland's Ocean: Measuring and monitoring the impacts on our marine biodiversity and ecosystems, with an investment of €3 million for two awards.

Enhancing Research Capabilities: 610 Marine Research Days Supported on Board our National Research Vessels

The Marine Institute's research vessel fleet supported 610 days of marine research during 2024, serving internal users, Irish academic researchers, state agencies, and international collaborators. The vessels, RV *Celtic Explorer* and RV *Tom Crean*, provided essential infrastructure to complete the Institute's Data Collection Framework Obligations, climate surveys in Ireland, the Labrador Sea and Greenland, as well as working towards the eventual completion of Ireland's seabed map (INFOMAR) and new seabed data collection in support of Ireland's Offshore Renewable Energy ambitions.



Developing Ocean Knowledge: Ocean Knowledge 2030 Strategy and Conference

The Marine Institute, in line with its mandate, developed Ireland's new marine research and innovation strategy, Ocean Knowledge 2030, in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders.

The strategy's implementation over the period 2025-2030 (also coordinated by the Marine Institute) will promote and facilitate close coordination and cooperation across the system to ensure that investments are optimised and targeted at the most strategically important areas, addressing critical knowledge gaps and delivering knowledge, data and evidence to underpin marine policy and management.

A dedicated conference in Dublin in November 2024 presented an advanced draft of the strategy. The event was attended by more than 260 people and provided a unique forum for exchange of information, fostering synergies and collaboration, and identifying key knowledge, research and innovation actions to address ocean sustainability and blue economy challenges.



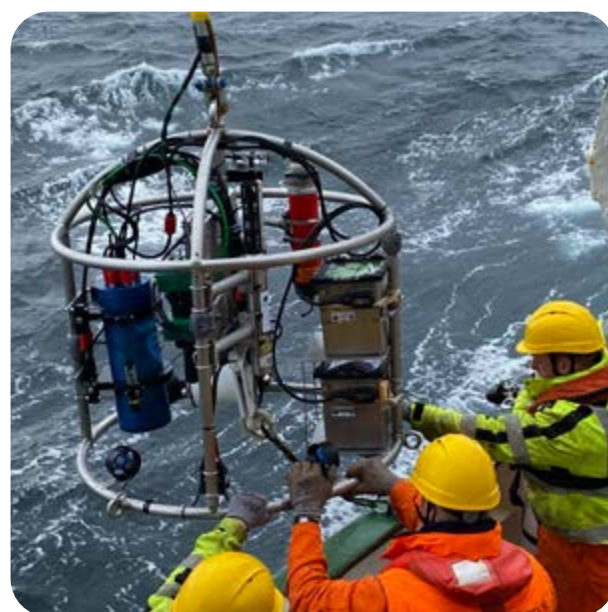
Ocean Knowledge 2030 (see photo credits for details).



Ocean Knowledge 2030 (see photo credits for details).

Enhancing Ocean Floor Observations: ALaMo Programme

In 2024, the Marine Institute collaborated with colleagues from Spain (IEO-CSIC; ENVISAD) and Portugal (IPMA) to develop the Atlantic arc Lander Monitoring (ALaMo) programme, a network of low-cost lander arrays for ocean floor observations. The successful deployment of landers during the Marine Institute AIMSIR cruise, in partnership with IEO and ENVISAD, enhances ocean monitoring in Irish waters. This supports effective spatial and temporal monitoring of bottom marine habitats in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and fishing grounds off the Irish coast.



Advancing Sustainable Aquaculture ASTRAL Project

The ASTRAL project, which concluded in 2024, developed integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) production chains for the Atlantic markets in Europe, South America and South Africa.

The EU-funded project resulted in the creation of a series of production manuals aimed to further enhance the sustainable development of European aquaculture (meeting the aims of the European Green Deal, the EU guidelines for sustainable aquaculture development, and the Irish national strategic plan for sustainable aquaculture development 2030).

Knowledge transfer workshops with 60-70 attendees were organised by the Marine Institute at the Atlantic Aquaculture Conferences in Brazil (2023) and South Africa (2024). Further dissemination events were held at the European Aquaculture Society annual conferences over the course of the project.

Marine Institute Leading €14.5 Million AQUARIUS Project to Facilitate Marine and Fresh Water Research

The four-year long AQUARIUS project - Aquatic Research Infrastructure Services for the health and protection of our unique oceans, seas and freshwater ecosystems - was launched in March. It provides a highly comprehensive suite of integrated research infrastructures appropriate to addressing significant challenges for the long-term sustainability of our oceans, seas and freshwater ecosystems.



Aodhán Fitzgerald at AQUARIUS event.



Claire Commings, Aodhán Fitzgerald, Bernadette Ni Chonghaile and Frank Armstrong.

The Europe-wide project will also include training for third-level students, with all data collected within the project fed into central European data infrastructures to inform future policy and decision making at a European and national level. AQUARIUS, co-ordinated by the Research Vessel Operations team in the Marine Institute, launched its first call for applications in November. A total of €8.1 million is being offered across two Transnational Access Calls in this funding round.

Decarbonising Maritime Transport and Port Activities

Through the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) the Marine Institute was centrally involved in a decarbonisation related research initiative – the EU Atlantic Interreg project called SMARTDEC (Smart Clusters for Maritime Decarbonisation).

Work commenced in 2024, aiming to create a catalogue of services, solutions and technologies available in the Atlantic coast regions, notably from start-ups and SMEs, in favour of the decarbonisation of maritime transport and port activities and in order to boost the adoption of new technologies.

Securing EU Funding: €69.6 million for Marine Research

The Marine Institute optimises national engagement and success in the Horizon Europe Framework programme via a range of channels.

At the midpoint of the Programme, Irish research groups, SMEs and industry have to-date drawn down €69.6 million in funding for marine and maritime related research. This marks significant progress when compared to the total drawdown for the whole of previous programme H2020 was €91.5 million and for FP7, it was €48 million).



Marine Institute Research Facility in Newport, Co Mayo.

CASE STUDY

The Marine Research Programme – building new research capacity and driving innovation in the Irish marine sector

The Marine Institute’s Marine Research Programme is a key component of the organisation’s research function. Providing funding for projects via competitive calls, research funded under this Programme supports sustainable economic growth, promotes innovation, protects marine ecosystems, and informs policy, governance and regulation of the Irish marine sector.



Dr Gerard McCarthy, Lead Researcher on the A4 Project.

The Programme, managed by the Policy, Information and Research Service (PIRS) area of the Institute and funded by the Government of Ireland, makes investments of circa €8-10 million per year.

Since 2014, a total of €80 million has been awarded to a wide variety of organisations, academic institutions and businesses. This has funded vital research projects that are improving our scientific knowledge and providing solutions to issues and challenges in the marine sector.

Funding is provided in a number of ways including:

- Industry-led awards
- Equipment/infrastructure awards
- Postdoctoral fellowships
- Postgraduate scholarships (Cullen Scheme)
- Networking and marine research communication awards
- Research for policy awards
- Large-scale project awards
- Ship-time awards (access to the national research vessels)



Strategic Priorities impacted:
2: Meeting Climate, Biodiversity and Security Challenges
3: Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation
5: Supporting Ireland’s Blue Economy

What impact is the Marine Research Programme having?

The Marine Institute is currently carrying out an analysis of the impacts of the €80 million investment through the Programme between 2014 and 2023, and the results will be published in 2025.

Three projects, serving as examples of the Programme's many investments, are detailed below:

The A4 Project: Aigéin, Aeráid and Athrú Atlantaigh (Oceans, Climate, and Atlantic Change)

The A4 Project, led by Dr Gerard McCarthy, Maynooth University, with Trinity College Dublin, was awarded €2 million from the 2018 Marine Research Programme call.

The project commenced in 2019 and is due to complete in 2025. It is studying changes in the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), the main ocean current system in the Atlantic Ocean that plays an important role in the climate system. The project also considers scenarios for Ireland due to a weakening AMOC.

Research is in three areas: 1) understanding Atlantic variability and its connection to the Irish shelf, 2) advancing knowledge of Irish sea level change in an Atlantic context, and 3) development of predictive capacity on decadal timescales for planning and management, which will be integrated to provide comprehensive, stakeholder-focused reports.

Funding supports eight full-time researchers (one fellow, three post-docs and four PhD students). To date, the project has generated 108 outputs including an impressive 61 peer-reviewed publications.

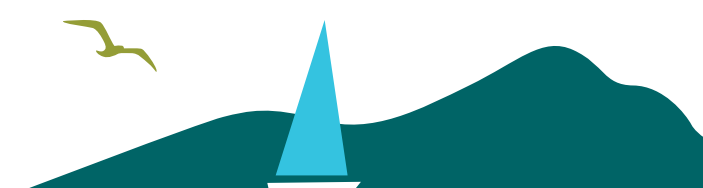
The team's research on sea level rise, sea surface temperature and the increased frequency of severe weather events (e.g. storm surges and marine heatwaves) is providing important scientific evidence for local and national government to plan and implement policy changes for the Irish population to adapt to a changing climate. It is expected that at the project's completion in 2025, even more impacts will be derived from the research findings.

The A4 Project team has featured widely in the media including interviews on radio, television and podcasts e.g. *The Irish Times*, *The Journal* and *Will Ireland Survive 2050?*, an RTÉ documentary on climate change.

The Blue Carbon Initiative – BlueC and Quest (both led by University College Dublin)

The Blue Carbon Initiative was launched by the Marine Institute in 2021 to investigate further the potential of Ireland's blue carbon resource to mitigate climate change, the impacts of human activities and climate change on this important ecosystem, and also to address research questions relevant to Irish, European and global marine, climate, nature and biodiversity policy objectives.

Additional investment from co-funder the Environmental Protection Agency has enabled two projects to be funded for five years (from June 2022 to May 2027).



The first is Blue C (Investigating Ireland's Blue Carbon Potential Through a Scientific, Socioeconomic and Legislative Approach), a partnership between University College Dublin (UCD), University of Galway and University College Cork, with grant-aid of €1.6 million.

This project assesses the carbon sequestration of Ireland's existing saltmarsh and seagrass habitats and seeks to establish a long-term monitoring programme for these habitats. It also evaluates potential new blue carbon ecosystems, quantifies the socio-economic, biodiversity, coastal protection aspects of these blue carbon habitats and looks to develop long-term management strategies for these habitats.



Dr Grace Cott (Blue C) and Dr Mark Coughlan (Quest).

Quest is a collaboration between UCD, Dublin City University and Geological Survey of Norway (non-funded partner), and was awarded €1 million. It aims to quantify the current stocks of carbon in sediments, identify potential carbon 'hotspots', and examine the threats to carbon storage in sediments from human activity (e.g. trawling).



It also takes a look at hydrodynamic effect (e.g. from increased storms), methane release in shallow waters, and aims to develop both long-term management strategies for sediment habitats and standardised approaches to quantifying carbon in Irish sediments.

The two investments – Blue C and Quest – support 12 full-time researchers (five post-docs, six PhD students and one Masters student). To date, the two projects have generated 38 outputs, including seven peer-reviewed publications. Funding was also awarded to UCD for 28 ship days under the Marine Institute's Ship-Time Programme to complete research surveys for the projects in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Additional impacts include Dr Grace Cott, Principal Investigator for Blue C, being featured in a short ocean documentary filmed at Derrymore saltmarsh in 2023. This was aired 15 times on Euronews TV channel. Both Dr Cott (BlueC) and Dr Anthony Grey (Quest) have been involved as experts in preparing a PI Oceans Concept Paper on Blue Carbon. This paper has since been approved by the JPI Oceans Management Board as a Joint Action.

Dr Mark Coughlan (Quest) leveraged additional funding from the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre in Applied Geosciences (iCrag) to fund the 'Taking Stock' project in collaboration with Dr. Geertje Schuitema and led by Post-Doctoral Researcher Dr. Tomas Buitendijk at UCD. This Project was completed in January 2024, and has led to the publication of a Policy Brief.

The Navigate Project

University College Cork (MaREI Centre, ERI and the School of Law) was a recipient of funding in 2017 under the Marine Institute's Ocean Law and Marine Governance call.

Funding of €800,000 was awarded with the aim of building and strengthening national capacity in Ireland on ocean law and marine governance. Specific areas of research have included exploring the marine governance issues arising for Ireland as a result of Brexit (particularly in relation to fisheries), the options for climate-proofing future marine policy, and identifying opportunities for joining up approaches under key marine legislative instruments.

“

The funding provided by the Marine Research Programme for the A4 Project has delivered critical research for Ireland in the fields of Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) and sea level rise. The A4 Project is a collaboration led by Maynooth University with Trinity College Dublin, working closely with the OCIS team in the Marine Institute, and international collaborators in the US, UK and across Europe. The research produced on AMOC change has set the questions internationally, documenting the critical ongoing changes, and asking about the implications for climate. Research produced on sea level has delivered the first long term studies of mean sea level around Ireland for almost 30 years.

”

Dr Gerard McCarthy,
Lead researcher of the A4 Project

The funding has supported three researchers (a Principal Investigator, part-time post-doc and a PhD student). The project concluded in 2023 with 199 outputs including 36 peer-reviewed publications. The project team leveraged €5.7 million in additional funding from 2017 to 2023.

Other impacts include participation in relevant conferences and policy development fora, producing conference papers, and securing further research funding (particularly in multidisciplinary projects where governance expertise would assist in supporting the sustainable development of Ireland's marine sectors and conservation of its biodiversity).

“

As the sectoral demand for marine space continues to increase and the potential for Ireland to sustainably exploit our marine resource grows, research in marine law and ocean governance becomes more and more critical, particularly as we also need to meet international and national commitments on climate and biodiversity. The funding provided by the Marine Institute's Marine Research Programme for the Navigate project enabled research to be undertaken that has informed policy at national and European levels on Brexit, Marine Protected Areas, Maritime Spatial Planning, Offshore Renewable Energy, International Environmental Law, Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Resilience.

”

Dr Anne Marie O'Hagan, MaREI Centre,
Environmental Research Institute,
University College Cork

CASE STUDY

Enabling leading-edge multidisciplinary research and nurturing the future of marine science – the Eurofleets+ project

A major project coordinated by the Research Vessels Operations team in the Marine Institute, Eurofleets+ has now been completed. It was the third iteration in the Eurofleets initiative. Eurofleets created an alliance of European marine research infrastructure, and facilitated open free-of-charge access to that infrastructure to meet the evolving needs of the research and industrial communities.



For the Marine Institute, coordinating the Eurofleets+ project assisted in securing the coordination role in an even larger Horizon Europe funded Transnational Access project – AQUARIUS – which commenced in 2024 and is enabling access to marine and freshwater research infrastructures.

European and international researchers were able to apply to Eurofleets+ for several access programmes through a single-entry application form. Access was granted based on scientific excellence, covering all fields of marine science and giving priority to research on sustainable, clean and healthy oceans. Proposals had to meet strict eligibility criteria and underwent a robust scientific and logistic evaluation process.

Through the programme, access was provided to a wide fleet of state-of-the-art research vessels and a range of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and deep-water Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs). This enabled researchers, including early-career researchers and those from less equipped countries, to access infrastructure across 28 funded scientific cruises, resulting in a total of 268 research days.



Strategic Priorities impacted:
2: Meeting Climate, Biodiversity and Security Challenges
3: Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation
4: Leading the Digital Ocean Transformation



Eurofleets+ Funded cruise IOPD scientists onboard the RV Sanna.

A total of 315 researchers from 33 different nationalities benefitted from these Transnational Access (TNA) programmes. The SEA (Ship-time and marine Equipment Application) Programme funded nine Early Career Principal Investigators, with a total of 144 early career scientists participating across the TNA programmes.

Twelve main scientific disciplines were studied, varying from New Technologies to Climate Dynamics, with Geology and Geochemistry being the most studied disciplines. Nearly 60% of cruises were multidisciplinary, with most including three or more disciplines.

The study areas were in the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Baltic Sea and included the Gulf Stream (North West Atlantic) and the North Island area in New Zealand, providing access to areas previously not available to European researchers in past projects.

In addition to these Transnational Access activities, the project also undertook joint research activities in challenging and highly relevant areas, including deep ocean research and exploration, data management, and enabling future virtual access.



The Open Data Policy and the use of the Eurofleets Automatic Reporting System (EARS) data acquisition system ensured the collection of over 160 datasets of multidisciplinary data across the world oceans, which will benefit researchers into the future, and inform policymakers.

The Eurofleets+ Education and Training Programme offered opportunities to early career technicians, marine scientists and (future) Research Infrastructure managers and contributed towards the objective of 'Building a Career in Blue Growth'.

Over the course of the project, six Floating Universities, seven Blue Skills Labs, and a Marine Internship Programme were organised. A total of 14 individual courses were implemented, attended by 19 different nationalities with a total of 102 participants benefiting from the programme. Educational materials and resources resulting from the training courses were included in the Eurofleets+ Ocean Classroom, an online ocean literacy resource that is a key legacy of the initiative.

The Eurofleets+ project received funding from the EU H2020 Research and Innovation Programme.

What impact is Eurofleets+ having?



AUV being deployed from the RV Tangaroa during Eurofleets+ Funded Cruise Focus

Granting scientists access to cutting-edge research vessels and marine infrastructure has led to impactful and ground-breaking work by these researchers. Their contributions have enriched our understanding of the marine world, from deep sea ecosystems to climate patterns.

For instance, the deep-sea scientific research undertaken on the Eurofleets+ funded iMAR research cruise in the mid-Atlantic was instrumental in the establishment of the largest network of marine protected areas in the North Atlantic. The RV *Pelagia* from the Royal Netherlands Institute of Sea Research was provided for this survey in 2021.

Eurofleets' commitment to nurturing the future generation of marine scientists has translated into early career scientists having the knowledge and skills necessary to tackle the complex challenges of marine research. The education initiatives have ensured a steady influx of talent into the field.

Not only has access to Eurofleets+ benefitted individual researchers but it also contributes to the advancement of science and technology on a larger scale, with a long-term impact.

The Eurofleets+ joint research activities have been the driving force behind innovations in data management, deep-sea equipment development, and innovative exploration strategies. These initiatives have catapulted ocean research to new heights, producing a more comprehensive understanding of the ocean's complex ecosystems.

The project aligned with sustainable development goals and global policy frameworks. Its contributions to sustainable ocean governance have been pivotal in addressing urgent environmental issues such as climate change, marine conservation, and sustainable fisheries.

Building upon the achievements of the Eurofleets+ project, the goal is to establish a Eurofleets Research Infrastructure, an AISBL (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif), to formalise and enhance the coordination and utilisation of European-funded research vessel activities on a pan-European level.



It's truly rewarding to see that scientific explorations of the deep sea provided a solid foundation for the expansion of the network of offshore Marine Protected Areas in the Azores, ensuring the preservation of these unique ecosystems for future generations.



Dr Telmo Morato, Principal Investigator of the Eurofleets+ funded iMAR research cruise to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, in the Azores region.



[Watch Video on YouTube](#)

Strategic Priority 4

Leading the Digital Ocean Transformation



The Marine Institute has an important leadership role in collecting, analysing, and sharing marine data to deliver cutting-edge, easily accessible eGovernment services. This builds on an increasingly connected and collaborative national marine digital services platform, underpinned by national marine data resources, coupled with strong data governance and security.

With an accelerating pace of digitalisation, the capacity to collect, process and apply marine scientific data has expanded rapidly. The Marine Institute is leading the way in providing a range of advanced and easily accessible data and digital marine services.

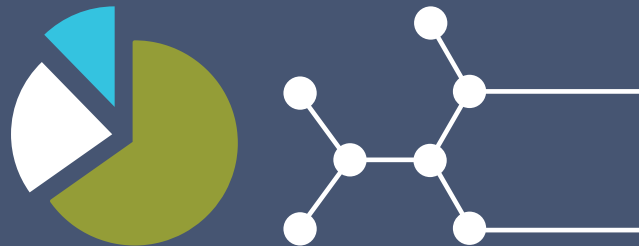
By adopting next-generation technologies and new ways of working, the Institute is delivering its services more effectively and collaboratively, and in ways that better meet the needs of our key clients and stakeholders.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024:

Improving the Institute's Extensive Data Services

Upgrades to the Marine Institute's Data Services in 2024 enabled seamless access to over 750 catalogued datasets, 105 updated web services, and 15 thematic online viewers and dashboards. These upgrades enable easier access to national marine data, fostering open data and information sharing and cross-organisational collaboration.



Advancing Applications for Acoustic Surveys

A new application was developed during 2024 to make it easier to record biological data during acoustic surveys. These surveys provide a key data source for assessment of pelagic species.

The new software is significantly more intuitive and includes more quality assurance features. It also simplifies data sharing and incorporates tools to manage genetic sampling data, which is becoming increasingly important for marine research.

Raising Public Awareness of Marine Conditions with new Galway Bay QR Code Plaques

The Marine Institute, in collaboration with Cuan Beo, developed plaques with Quick Response (QR) codes that were installed at 17 locations around Galway Bay frequented by swimmers and shoreline walkers. These plaques provide real-time data on marine conditions, including temperature, salinity, tidal stages, and likely bird sightings. By offering accurate forecasts for recreational users, this initiative enhances safety and fosters a deeper connection to marine environments.



Improving Marine Institute Data Processes and Connectivity

The Institute’s Data Management Quality Management Framework provides quality assurance and process improvement for more than 120 data processes. 93 of these processes were reviewed in the past year, for the purposes of process improvement and quality control.

With support from HEAnet, data connectivity speeds were increased tenfold, enabling faster access to Marine Institute data and services, and significantly improving user experience.

Delivering Offshore Renewable Energy Data to Industry

The Marine Institute partnered with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) to deliver the first Offshore Renewable Energy reconnaissance geophysical survey data directly to industry.

In addition, innovative satellite telecommunications solutions were deployed earlier in the year to enhance seismic data quality assurance and expedited delivery. These advancements ensure that DECC and clients receive accurate, actionable data faster than ever before.

Building Stakeholder Confidence with CoreTrustSeal Accreditation

The Marine Institute received accreditation from CoreTrustSeal for its National Oceanographic Data Centre (NODC) programme, making the Institute only the second Irish repository to be accredited. CoreTrustSeal (CTS) is a well-recognised global certification – the accreditation will further build stakeholder confidence and enhance the reputation of the NODC as an internationally recognised scientific marine data centre, with strong data governance and quality assurance.



CASE STUDY

Developing the integrated evidence base and digital services for national marine programmes: AQUAMIS aquaculture licensing viewers

Realising a marine evidence base requires access to high-quality marine data from a wide range of sources, combined with the expertise to interpret the data and convert it into usable information.

While data are the key raw ingredient in this process, the availability of scientific and technical expertise is important to analyse and make available the data as usable information. This information is then presented in suitable ways that can be better understood and used by different stakeholders. This case study takes a closer look at one example of a Marine Institute supported information service, the AQUAMIS Aquaculture Licensing Viewers, and the impacts they have had.

Over the past four years, the Marine Institute has developed Aquaculture Licensing Viewers, including a private and a public viewer, to support the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine’s (DAFM’s) AQUAMIS programme. The viewers were developed in conjunction with the Department’s Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division (AFMD) and Marine Engineering Division (MED). Overall, the work set out to enhance the efficiency of the aquaculture licensing review process through digitalisation. The private viewer provides a number of internal teams with shared information and analysis capabilities for new licence applications, while the external viewer provides accessible information on licensed sites to the general public.



Strategic Priorities impacted:
3: Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation
4: Leading the Digital Ocean Transformation
5: Supporting Ireland’s Blue Economy





An older system for aquaculture licensing relied on a local database system, with spatial representation handled individually as needed. The new system modernised the structure of aquaculture licensing data, leveraging advanced Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and database management technologies.

It integrates robust quality-assured datasets including aquaculture licence areas, environmental data, and supporting contextual spatial information from several organisations including the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The platform allows for regular updates to reflect the latest policy and data updates, ensuring the accuracy and currency of the data. The new viewers were designed with a user-friendly interface to support use across several teams and support access across devices, including mobile.

Users can get access to a single view of the current data required through an efficient map navigation interface. They can also use data analysis and search tools to find sites and analyse possible impacts e.g. to show the level of activities within a particular area, and users can also output map and tabular information use reporting options. This can help communicate the information used to make decisions.

The AQUAMIS Aquaculture Licensing Viewers continue to be improved. A major update in 2024, facilitated through close collaboration between the Marine Institute and DAFM MED, supports the licence data processing and publication process to be fully deployed by the Department. In the updated workflow, aquaculture data entered through the new DAFM system can be processed and securely integrated into the web viewers more efficiently.

What impact are the new Licensing Viewers having?

This work has delivered an online service providing accessible, up-to-date spatial data related to aquaculture licensing activities with important relevant contextual information.

An internal version of the AQUAMIS viewer, used to support decision making for new applications, has over 30 active internal users across DAFM and Marine Institute teams.

The improvements ensure that a single view of the latest data needed, including AQUAMIS licensing data and the additional contextual information from various sources, is made available across the relevant teams to aid relevant decision making. This has also helped to reduce the time needed to access data for the review of new licensing application.

An external version of the viewers, showing currently licensed aquaculture sites, is available online at dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/ and has been accessed more than 4,000 times by over 1,400 users in 2024.

“

The AQUAMIS licensing viewers have greatly simplified the sharing and access to data needed for review of foreshore licensing applications. The viewers have been a very successful addition to the AQUAMIS programme, with the improved access to information helping to make the process more joined-up and efficient.

”

Raphael Crowley, who coordinated the DAFM Marine Engineering Division input to the project and is now a key user of the system.



CASE STUDY

Further digitalisation of the Irish maritime industry – the International Fast and Secure Trade Lane project

The Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) at the Marine Institute is leading the way on opportunities for the enhanced digitalisation of the Irish maritime industry, engaging with ports, industry, agencies, regulatory authorities and Government departments.



Digitalisation opportunities help to maintain and build the maritime industry's competitiveness, efficiency, resilience and sustainability.

A recent major initiative is the International Fast and Secure Trade Lane (IFSTL) project, which began as a series of workshops organised by the IMDO with ports and industry and developed into a major three-year EU Connecting Europe Facility funded project.

The IFSTL project began in 2020, led by the IMDO/Marine Institute with Dublin Port and Ports of Normandie as project partners. France is Ireland's closest trading partner in the EU and central to our connectivity to mainland Europe. Therefore, it's vital that the maritime corridors between Ireland and France operate as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The wider project group included Irish Ferries, Stena Line, Brittany Ferries, Dixon International Transport and ACE Transport, all of whom were involved in the field operational trials.



Strategic Priorities impacted:
3: Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation
4: Leading the Digital Ocean Transformation
5: Supporting Ireland's Blue Economy

The stakeholders, consisting of industry, ports and agencies, were critical in informing the direction of the project and ensuring that it tested real world scenarios and interventions so that a realistic estimation of impact could be determined.

Throughout the project, the stakeholder group identified bottlenecks and how these processes could most benefit from digitalisation.



Edel O'Connor (IMDO), Liam Lacey (IMDO), Simone Siria (Circle Group), Alexio Picco (Circle Group) and Phillippe Deiss (Ports de Normandie) at the IFSTL final event.

The outcomes include a set of improved IFSTL logistic processes and a set of existing and validated IFSTL software modules that will be used on the Dublin to Cherbourg route. The IFSTL Masterplan was earmarked to develop policy recommendations for exploitation on other shipping routes. In essence, providing a roadmap for the project's expansion to other ports and routes.

The project concluded in 2023 but its work continues through a Marine Institute funded post-doctoral fellowship at the Insight Centre for Data Analytics at Dublin City University (DCU). This post-doctoral researcher will assist the IMDO and the Department of Transport with the development of a roadmap for facilitating the digital transformation of the sector.



Cherbourg

What impact is this work having?

Key impacts that were measured in the IFSTL project included:

- Improvements in operating processes (gate and yard) time efficiency
- Improvements in service quality levels (reduction in queueing and waiting times per truck at gate access)
- Better use of yard space (reduction in congestion)

From a sustainability perspective, there was a decrease in queues and overall kilometres travelled, which reduced emissions and enhanced air quality at the terminal.

The project identified both the economic and environmental benefits through digitalising a small part of the value chain. It signalled that further digitalisation could bring even more benefits to ports, industry and the economy on a whole.

In parallel with the project, Irish ports have also been making their own individual investments in Smart Port technologies.

The project also created a platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration to help to identify challenges, bottlenecks and a future pathway for the industry. Ongoing engagement with and between industry stakeholders is critical to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Irish network as a whole.

A clear understanding of the long-term costs and benefits of digitalisation will drive future investment decisions. The research gained through the IFSTL project and now the work being undertaken by the post-doctoral researcher are already helping to address this issue.

“

In planning for the future, Dublin Port has benefited from the research and evidence base that has been accumulated by the IMDO. Our response to digitalisation in the maritime industry, the provision of on-shore power supply and the development of port capacity to meet future demand has been informed by the valuable work of the IMDO and the impacts that work has had on maritime policy.

”

Barry O’Connell, Chief Executive Officer of Dublin Port



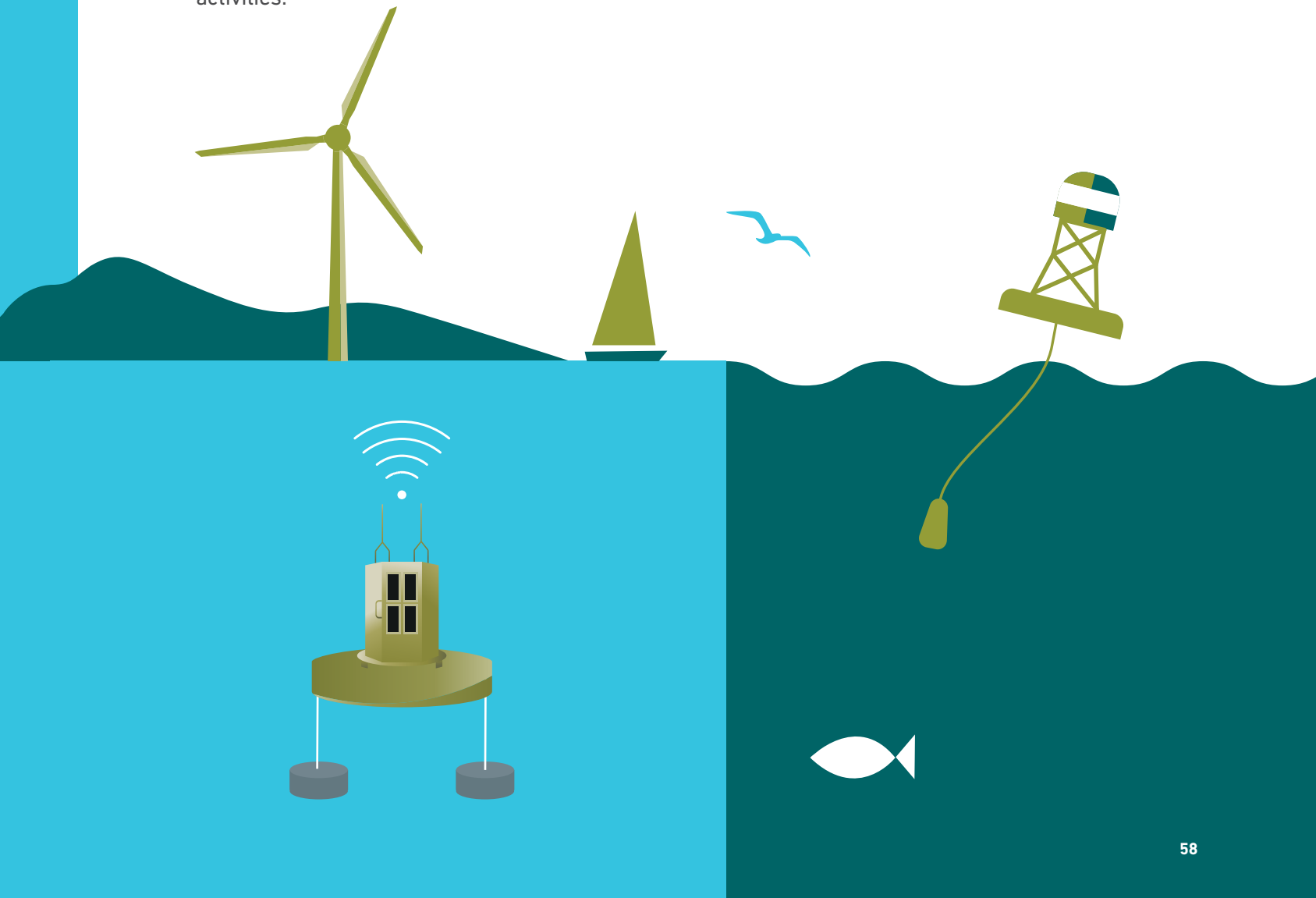
Strategic Priority 5
Supporting Ireland’s
Blue Economy



The blue economy encompasses the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem.

The blue economy is increasingly knowledge-driven, leveraging the potential of marine technology, data, information and associated digital products and services. As the world transitions to a climate-neutral economy, there’s a move away from traditional business models and practices to less energy-intensive, more sustainable and where possible, ‘regenerative’ activities.

Through the provision of scientific, technical, economic and digital services, the Marine Institute supports the development of a sustainable blue economy across multiple marine and maritime sectors, including seafood, Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE), and maritime transport.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024:

Providing Insight: Ireland’s Ocean Economy Report

The Marine Institute’s Policy Information and Research Services (PIRS) works with University of Galway each year to publish an update on ‘Ireland’s Ocean Economy’. The 2024 report provided an update on the performance of 13 ocean-based industries covering seafood, transport, energy, manufacturing, engineering, retail, commerce, and tourism. The report underpins marine spatial planning, providing an evidence-based framework, to guide national decision making and governance.

This latest publication shows that Ireland’s ocean economy achieved a turnover of €6.5 billion in 2023, contributing €2.7 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) and supporting approximately 39,000 jobs. Other work carried out by PIRS in 2024 supporting Ireland’s Blue Economy included an in-depth analysis of the nation’s coastal economy, examining a range of socio-demographic indicators critical for policy and planning.

Fostering Industry Collaboration with Salmon Growers

Meetings with salmon growing companies were convened by Marine Environment and Food Safety Services (MEFSS) throughout 2024 to discuss relevant elements of the application of the Animal Health Law, and to ensure open ongoing communications with industry. These meetings have been very positive and collaborative.



Developing New Digital Models for Wave Climate Data

Due to an increase in data requests for wave climate data in Irish waters (mainly driven by increased activity in the Offshore Renewable Energy sector), the Marine Institute launched the Irish Shelf SWAN wave model. Spanning Ireland’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), this advanced tool replaced the decade-old East Atlantic model. This enables a 30-year hindcast archive (1994-2023) of wave data and a daily nowcast and forecast of wave parameters, publicly accessible via the Marine Institute website.



Irish Maritime Transport Economist publication provides industry vital data

The Irish Maritime Development Office published the *Irish Maritime Transport Economist*, a comprehensive source of national maritime traffic, trade and global shipping market data. The publication provides an in-depth retrospective analysis of maritime freight volumes, cargoes and passenger freight volumes, and is a valuable reference source for the maritime industry.



Empowering Sustainable Fisheries with Scientific Stock Assessments

Through surveys, monitoring and sampling of fishing catch throughout 2024, the Marine Institute’s Fisheries Ecosystems and Advisory Services (FEAS) provided objective stock status of critical marine fishing resources, using best available science. Only through standardised, routine monitoring and processes can the changing status of stocks, and how best to target them, be determined. The stock assessment work carried out by the Marine Institute enables the fishing industry to adapt strategies, optimise harvests and ensure the long-term sustainability, securing a cornerstone of Ireland’s blue economy.



Shaping Maritime Education for the Future

Given the significant changes underway in the maritime industry, the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) commissioned and completed a piece of work on behalf of the Department of Transport aiming to scope current and future education and training needs in the maritime industry.

It also set out to discover any gaps in the provision of relevant expertise. This piece of work has been extremely important in setting an agenda to be progressed for maritime training and education over the coming year.



CASE STUDY

Delivering best practice norovirus testing service to ensure the safety of Irish oysters for consumers worldwide

Norovirus remains the single most important food safety concern associated with the consumption of oysters. Since March 2018, to support oyster growers to produce the safest oysters possible, the Marine Institute, funded by Bord Iascaigh Mhara, has provided a norovirus testing service to members of the Irish Oyster Packers Group (IOPG) who export oysters throughout the world.



Since the testing service began, the Marine Institute has analysed approximately 5,000 samples for norovirus. This data is used by oyster growers to produce risk management plans specifically tailored to their production areas and identify suitable mitigation steps to reduce risk to acceptable levels.

Norovirus is commonly known as the “winter vomiting bug” and is the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis globally. Oysters can become contaminated if grown in areas that are impacted by human wastewater discharges. By their nature, oysters accumulate the virus in their tissues and when eaten raw (which is usual for oysters), outbreaks of norovirus illness can occur. There are currently no legal limits prescribed in food safety regulation for norovirus in oysters in the EU. However, despite this, Ireland has been proactive in dealing with this food safety issue.

Strategic Priorities impacted:

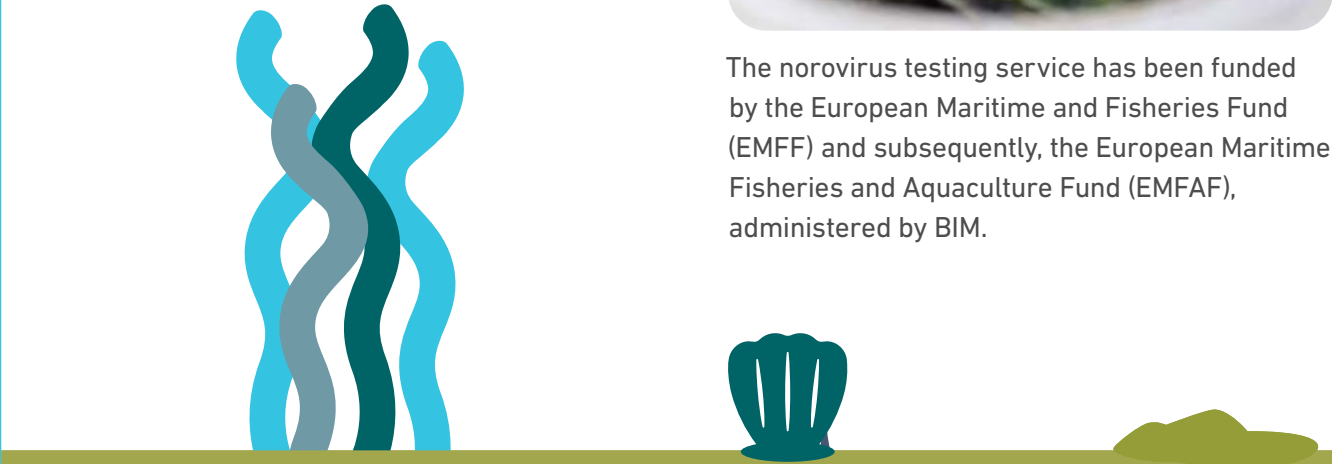
- 1: Transforming Our Knowledge, Advice and Services
- 3: Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation
- 5: Supporting Ireland’s Blue Economy



The norovirus testing programme allows Irish producers to confidently produce the safest possible oysters and supports their efforts to produce an internationally recognised high-quality product for sensitive international markets. The Marine Institute is the only laboratory on the island of Ireland that is accredited for the use of an internationally recognised standard method for the quantification of norovirus in oysters.



The norovirus testing service has been funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and subsequently, the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), administered by BIM.



What impact is the Norovirus Testing Service having?

The norovirus testing service helps Irish oyster producers to manage one of the major food safety risks confronting the sector and, ultimately, produce a safe product. The testing programme makes Irish oysters safer for consumption by people.

The service also has a positive impact in supporting Ireland's Blue Economy. Exports of Irish oysters were valued at €40 million in 2023. Trade of Irish oysters supports businesses and employment opportunities in rural communities throughout the country.

An oyster related food illness incident can have a devastating impact on individual businesses and, more generally, on the reputation of Irish oysters. The added food safety security that the world leading norovirus testing programme provides creates customer confidence in Irish oysters and gives businesses a competitive edge in sensitive international markets.

One of the impacts of introducing the norovirus testing programme in 2018 is that highly useful data has been generated. The Marine Institute now has the most comprehensive structured dataset for norovirus in Europe.

This provides a unique insight into the risk factors leading to norovirus contamination in oysters and the effectiveness of post-harvest treatments. Data from this testing and associated projects have contributed to several scientific publications which increase international knowledge of the risk factors involved with norovirus contamination in oysters and potential mitigation procedures.

This data also assists decision making by the competent authorities in Ireland and feeds into discussions at an EU level. This includes ongoing discussions regarding the introduction of an upper limit on an accept limit for norovirus in oysters in food safety regulations.

“

I cannot overstate how important the norovirus data provided to us by the Marine Institute is to our operation and it is no exaggeration to say that our business would not currently exist without access to this world leading facility. The data allows us to develop and implement the most effective control procedures possible. Our customers are aware of the norovirus risk associated with enjoying raw oysters but are increasingly looking for assurance in this regard. The weekly norovirus test results provided by the Marine Institute gives them the confidence to serve our oysters in some of the world's most prestigious restaurants. This has proved vital to accessing markets abroad including the valuable Middle and Far East's demand for premium fresh seafood.

”

Kian Louët-Feisser, Managing Director
of Carlingford Oyster Company

CASE STUDY

Determining the appropriate port capacity and infrastructure needed for delivery of Ireland's Offshore Renewable Energy ambitions

One of the most significant challenges facing Irish ports (and those around the world) is their necessary role in facilitating energy transition, in particular their part in supporting the roll-out of Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) to meet national decarbonisation and energy generation targets. The Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) at the Marine Institute is providing an important research and analysis service to meet these challenges.

Ireland has ambitious targets, set out by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, which aim to deploy 5GW of ORE by 2030, 20GW by 2040, and 37GW by 2050. Research and analysis is vital to understand the future demands of Irish port infrastructure from the ORE sector, to ensure that the ports' responses are timely, efficient and competitive.

In parallel, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in 2024 launched 'Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy', the first strategy of its kind in Ireland and one in which ports will also play a central role in maximising supply chain opportunities and associated economic return to Ireland.

The IMDO in the Marine Institute is playing an integral role in determining the appropriate port capacity and infrastructure needed to provide the evidence-base for national policies and strategies.



Strategic Priorities impacted:
2: Meeting Climate, Biodiversity and Seafood Security Challenges
3: Delivering Impact Through Research and Innovation
5: Supporting Ireland's Blue Economy



Liam Lacey, Director of the IMDO, speaking at the Green Energy Ports Conference

To date, the IMDO has:

- Carried out research underpinning the policy statement on the facilitation of ORE in commercial ports in 2021
- Carried out research to determine the minimum port capacity required to meet Government ORE targets

It is currently:

- Contributing to advisory work being carried out by the European Investment Bank for the Department of Transport, assessing capacity demand and financing strategies for the development of ORE port infrastructure
- Engaging with the Department of Transport and Irish ports in order to help to secure funding from the EU's Connecting Europe Facility and other relevant funding mechanisms, for ORE port infrastructure

What impact is this work having?

The IMDO's extensive work in this area informs the Department of Transport and other stakeholders in relation to the most effective policy responses. It has shaped and will continue to shape national policy on delivering appropriate ORE port infrastructure, at a critical moment in its development, so that it's sufficient to meet emerging demand for this type of energy.

Ports are planning ways to support existing maritime freight transport and future proofing for upcoming challenges. The research and insights from the IMDO are helping greatly with this process, ensuring that long-term development of port infrastructure is reflective of the future capacity requirements for ports. This, in turn, helps to meet demands from existing businesses and those emerging from new sectors such as ORE.

Ultimately, this work helps to support Ireland's Blue Economy, ensuring the longevity and economic viability of these infrastructure assets, and their capacity to support existing and emerging industries into the future.

As well as providing vital research for policy and strategy, the IMDO has been working with the Department of Transport and ports to unlock funding from the EU's Connecting Europe Facility-Transport (CEF-T) and other funding mechanisms for port infrastructure that can assist in the delivery of Irish and EU ORE targets.

This is important as ports need large-scale cost-effective investment in order to rapidly develop specialist facilities and also to unlock social and economic development in regional energy hubs. These investment opportunities for ports help to maximise economic return (contributing to Ireland's Blue Economy) and allow the capacity needed for long-term targets to be met. Overall, these investments will result in increased prosperity for Irish ports and the successful delivery of ORE in Ireland.



What is Offshore Renewable Energy?

The ocean contains vast quantities of untapped renewable energy. When harnessed, these can provide potential for economic growth and job creation, and a more sustainable source of energy for our planet. There are three main types of Offshore Renewable Energy – **wave energy, tidal energy and offshore wind energy.**



IMDO visit to Eemshaven, Netherlands.



The development of our state-of-the-art container terminal at Ringaskiddy and our plans to facilitate the deployment of offshore wind turbines provide evidence of our ability and desire to grow the business of the Port of Cork for the benefit of our stakeholders and the broader Irish economy. Our ambitions are supported by the work of the IMDO. Through our collaboration with them, we've recently been successful in establishing a ports coordination group for Offshore Renewable Energy, attracting EU funding for projects of national strategic importance, and exploring the possibilities of cross-border cooperation to advance all-island interests in cruise tourism and offshore energy generation.



Conor Mowlds, Chief Commercial Officer of the Port of Cork

CASE STUDY

Harnessing Ireland's blue edge: empowering cross-sectoral innovation and growth through the Marine Ireland Industry Network

A joint initiative of the Marine Institute and Enterprise Ireland, the Marine Ireland Industry Network (MIIN) links together more than 250 diverse member organisations and 400 stakeholders from companies, research institutions, state organisations and government bodies.



MIIN brings together the many elements that make up 'Marine Ireland', enhancing the overall understanding of what Irish marine capabilities are, and showcasing Ireland's 'Blue Edge'.

Initially, the network focused primarily on certain cross-cutting and emerging sectors (marine technology and Offshore Renewable Energy). But the interest and momentum behind the network has grown to a much broader multi-sectoral grouping, with strong interest and links to companies operating in the blue bioeconomy.

The network fosters connection and facilitates knowledge exchange. By organising online and in-person networking events, providing a members' directory and a digital platform, MIIN has increased the profile of Ireland's marine businesses, and created opportunities for stakeholders to showcase innovations, explore new markets, and develop partnerships.

What impact is MIIN having?

Ireland's ocean industries generate approximately €6.5 billion in turnover and have a direct economic contribution, as measured by GVA, of €2.7 billion (*Ireland's Ocean Economy Report 2024*). Ireland's Ocean Economy provides direct employment to approximately 38,900 people.



The data shows that it is a growth area. Between 2012 and 2022, Ireland's ocean economy (in nominal values) experienced a 48% increase in turnover and a 31% rise in employment. The OECD has outlined the capacity for future employment creation and innovation, and the importance of emerging ocean-based industries with high growth and innovation potential. These industries are already addressing challenges such as energy security, environment, climate change and food security.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have the opportunity to collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders such as universities and state agencies. Responding to a need from its members, MIIN focused its 2024 supports on the skills and capacity gaps currently being experienced in the marine sector. This was through a mixture of virtual events, and Higher Education Institute-Industry graduate placements and recruitment initiatives.

MIIN is jointly funded through the Marine Institute and Enterprise Ireland.



Máire Éinniú at MIIN event in Co Mayo.

Clearly, it is an important economic sector in Ireland that needs to be nurtured and encouraged to grow in a sustainable way.

The work of the Marine Ireland Industry Network meets this need in a very pragmatic way. Its approach, based on fostering collaboration, industry partnerships, and technological advancements, has led to impacts across a range of industries and companies, as evidenced by the many company testimonials and the feedback from the 2023 MIIN survey.

The network has also played a key role in helping Irish marine SMEs pivot to new markets (especially international markets) and adapt to industry shifts, particularly in offshore wind and renewable energy sectors.

For example, XOCEAN, an Irish company specialising in uncrewed surface vessels (USVs), uses MIIN's networking platforms to engage with international markets, offering its ocean data collection services to clients globally. The company's expansion, including its role in offshore wind projects in countries such as the UK and Norway and Australia, was supported by visibility and connections fostered through MIIN.

Another example of MIIN's impact is Inland and Coastal Marine Systems, which has leveraged the network's support to expand its operations in offshore wind energy infrastructure.

The company, known for fabricating and installing pontoon systems, used MIIN's networking capabilities to secure work in the UK, where it installed mooring systems for crew transfer vessels used in offshore wind farms. This has enabled the organisation to scale its business internationally more quickly and integrate more deeply into the renewable energy supply chain.

MIIN has also had an impact on providing companies with tools to modernise operations, access new funding streams, and adopt cutting-edge technologies, while building new cross-sectoral linkages. This has been achieved through conferences and webinars focusing on innovation and sustainability.

MIIN's digital platform is a crucial resource, offering companies a space to feature their services, products and innovations. This directory has made it easier for international buyers to access Irish marine capabilities, thereby accelerating the scaling of businesses and facilitating new market entries.

The strategic work of the MIIN has catalysed significant progress in Ireland's marine sector, providing companies with the tools, resources, and networks they need to thrive. MIIN has been impactful in enhancing Ireland's role in marine innovation and underpinning sustainable growth in the blue economy.



[Discover more](#) about Marine Ireland Industry Network

“

MIIN's networking events are crucial enablers of collaboration across the broad spectrum of marine industries in Ireland. These engagements allow us to connect with the right stakeholders to ensure sustainable growth.

”

Liam Curran, Enterprise Ireland

Strategic Priority 6

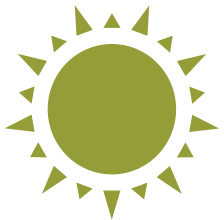
Empowering Our People to Deliver Excellence



At the Marine Institute, our people are our greatest asset, and we have seen first-hand the impacts of promoting and investing in the development of our team members.

We are building a workplace and workforce for the future; one that is evolving with changing work practices, employee expectations, and service needs. We aim to be an employer of choice, attracting high-calibre staff, retaining existing team members, and fostering an environment where our people feel supported, enabled to innovate, and passionate about the work that we do.

The Marine Institute communicates and acts in line with our shared values, and is committed to, and will continue to invest in, structures that provide equal access and opportunities to all.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024:

High Retention Rates Reflect Our Culture



Newport Staff Day 2024

Our organisation takes pride in a high staff retention rate, with 34% of our staff having worked with us for more than 20 years and 57% for more than 10 years.

This reflects the culture and environment in our organisation including, in particular, our commitment to lifelong learning and supporting education and development from undergraduate to professional levels.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in our Workforce

We continue to advance our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Programme, celebrating difference and fostering opportunities for all. The Marine Institute Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group is extremely active and seeks to ensure representation from all staff grades, roles, backgrounds, service groups and Marine Institute sites. A key output for 2024 was the development of the Marine Institute *Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Strategy and Action Plan* (including Gender Equality Plan) 2024-2027.



20 Years of Excellence Through People Certification

The Institute proudly retained platinum certification under the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) Excellence Through People (ETP) scheme. The organisation has been accredited for the 20th consecutive year. This milestone reinforces our position as a leader in human resource management, staff engagement, and innovation.



Culture Night Volunteers at the Marine Institute

Prioritising Development, Achieving Global Impact



Dr Fiona Grant, Head of International Programmes at the Marine Institute, appointed as the Chair of the European Marine Board (EMB) in 2024

The Marine Institute is committed to the learning and development opportunities that directly benefit staff members in their personal and career progression, which also pay dividends for the organisation and our stakeholders. Marine Institute staff continued to lead international collaborations, chairing high profile ocean science committees and groups. These roles not only benefit the international community and have a positive impact on the Marine Institute's knowledge base and global reputation, but also help to progress the professional and personal development of the team members concerned.



CASE STUDY

From Summer Bursar to Quality Manager – a Marine Institute Team Member’s Journey

The greatest asset that the Marine Institute has is its people – we are fortunate to have high-performing, talented and committed team members working with us.



Investing in our people through career development, along with training and professional learning, is key. Creating an inclusive environment, where people feel they are making a difference and are part of a team, is also an intrinsic part of our culture. Yvonne Bogan’s journey with the Marine Institute over the past 22 years exemplifies our priority to Empower Our People to Deliver Excellence.

Strategic Priority impacted:
6: Empowering Our People to Deliver Excellence

Becoming a scientist

Yvonne is currently the Quality Manager, Team Leader for Marine Environment & Food Safety Services (MEFSS). Her passion for science began in secondary school.

“I had a really enthusiastic science teacher and from day one, I loved science. After my Leaving Cert, the choice was really easy for me on what to study at college – science!”

Yvonne studied for a BSc in Analytical Science at Letterkenny Institute of Technology (now Atlantic Technological University) where she developed an interest in the biotoxin area. She achieved an award for the best food safety related project for her degree project in marine biotoxins from the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

While approaching her final exams, Yvonne was considering her next steps when the opportunity to apply for the Marine Institute Summer Bursary programme came up in 2002. The scheme gives undergraduate students valuable practical experience and the opportunity to learn from experts in their field, over a period of eight to twelve weeks during the summer.

“I was a bursar in the Shellfish Safety Section – in the biotoxin chemistry unit. My memories of that time are of really enjoying doing the laboratory work as I’d been doing much more the theoretical side of things at college. Being able to put things into practice in the lab was really beneficial for me.”

“There was a good group of students there that year – it was great to get to know them and you didn’t feel on your own. Some of the laboratory staff I was working with at that time are still here and that’s very nice, to be in contact with the same people. The Bursary Programme started my career really and it made me want to progress on to study more about marine biotoxins, through doing a PhD.”

Yvonne is one of a number of employees in the organisation who joined as Summer Bursars and continue working there years later.

Yvonne’s interaction with the Marine Institute continued during her studies as she carried out some of her laboratory work in the biotoxin section. One of her PhD supervisors was also a team leader at the time in the Institute.

Yvonne began working in an analytical science role with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2006 and then moved onto another role as regional quality manager, which introduced her to the areas of quality assurance and people management.

Joining the Marine Institute

In 2015, the Marine Institute advertised a Quality Manager role, and Yvonne applied for it and was successful.

“The job appealed to me because of the scientific and technical ability of the staff in the Institute. I had previously really enjoyed my time gaining knowledge and developing technical ability as a student and felt like I would continue to learn and develop while bringing my quality assurance experience to MEFSS.”

Yvonne says the role was also a great fit for her because of the multiple scientific disciplines in the Marine Institute – everything from biotoxin chemistry to microbiology, molecular science to fish health, organic and inorganic chemistry, and lots more.

“Getting to work across these different science areas makes my job diverse and constantly changing,” she says. “And having the experience of working in the laboratory earlier in my career, it made it easier as a Quality Manager to understand the work that happens on a practical level.”

As Quality Manager, Team Leader for MEFSS, Yvonne’s role involves a wide range of areas including managing and coordinating the auditing programme for the quality system, managing reviews and updates to standard operating procedures, overseeing the risk management and improvements register for MEFSS, and harmonising the sections in the quality system.

She also moderates quality system meetings and ensures the overall quality system is constantly improving. Yvonne’s role includes representing the Marine Institute in discussions with accreditation bodies, auditors and customers, and ensuring that any updates to accreditation policies and procedures are implemented into the quality system.

“I love the management side of my role, and I am still involved in the science – I have the best of both worlds,” she says. “The interaction and engagement with my colleagues, feeling supported, and being enabled to continue to learn and grow definitely makes the job worthwhile.”



Learning and development

Yvonne says being encouraged to develop as a manager and leader, and being able to avail of further education courses has allowed her to develop her skills in this area. And it has made her feel like a valued member of the organisation.

“Through the Institute, I completed ‘Leadership Development for Women’ in Dublin City University in 2019 and I was supported to complete an Advanced Diploma in Personal, Leadership and Executive Coaching from 2019 to 2020 with Kingstown College, which was probably the best thing I’ve ever done. It was a really good course. I now use this coaching leadership style in my current position and also coach people in the Institute each year, supported by the Human Resources team.”

This investment in training and experience has led to Yvonne volunteering to be a mentor on the Aurora Leadership Development Initiative for Women.

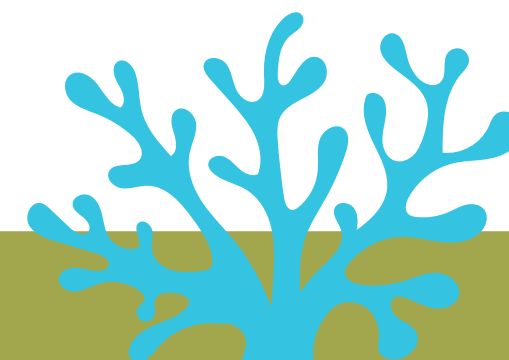
“There are always opportunities to upskill with courses at the Institute. I think, being a scientist, that love of learning is always there for me. In addition, I was asked to chair the Key Performance Indicator matrix team for the implementation of the Marine Institute strategy in 2020. This role involved all sections of the organisation, so I met new people and it gave me valuable insight into the other areas of work in the Institute.”

In 2022, Yvonne took a two-year career break from her role.

“I think, coming out of Covid, I had a bit of a rethink about where I was at after seven years in the role,” she says. “I saw a job with the Irish National Accreditation Board as its Deputy Manager and thought ‘I have the skills for this job, I have a love for learning more’ so I decided to go for it. The Institute was supportive of me taking the career break which was great because I knew I didn’t want to give up my job here.”

Yvonne says she learnt a lot during her time in the new role and was involved a lot in strategy implementation.

“Coming back to the Institute has been great and getting involved in the science element of my job... I’m very happy to be back. I think anytime you have the opportunity to learn new skills and develop, whether it’s training or taking on a new area of work, it’s not only beneficial to you but to the organisation as well.”



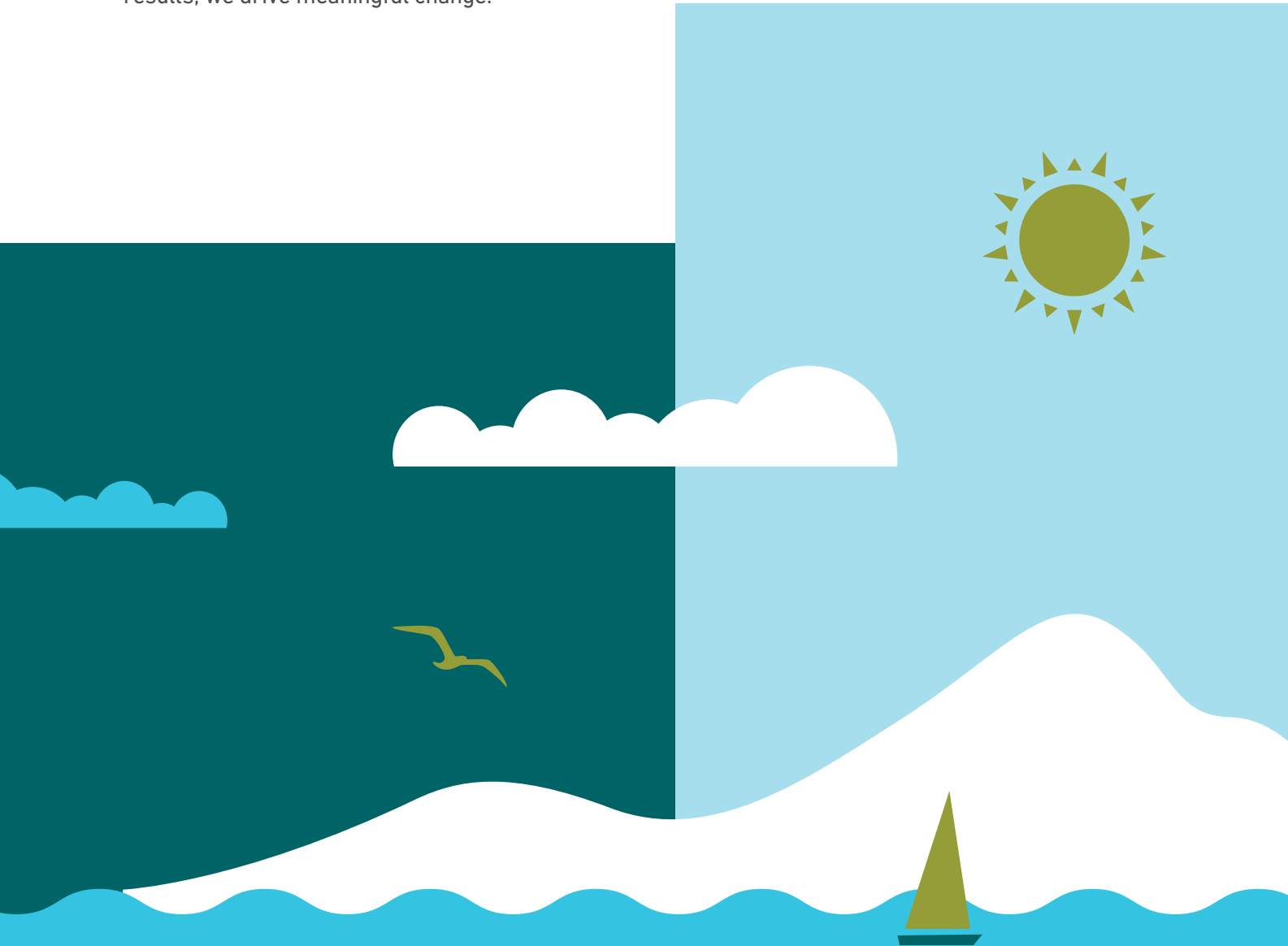
Strategic Priority 7

Our Organisation, Committing to Sustainability



Sustainability is at the heart of how the Marine Institute works and is a guiding principle for our organisation. We are committed to making a positive contribution to society and to the conservation of the environment.

How do we deliver on this commitment? By identifying high-impact programmes, projects and services, executing them with precision, and rigorously tracking and reporting measurable results, we drive meaningful change.



CASE STUDY

Improving and managing the Marine Institute’s energy efficiency and decarbonising its operations

One of the Marine Institute’s strategic priorities as an organisation is to commit to sustainability. It is a significant consideration for our research, our scientific advice and our economic development services. Sustainability is also a fundamental factor in the way we operate our buildings and infrastructure.



The Climate Action Mandate 2024 supports public sector bodies including the Marine Institute in leading by example on climate action. It aims to inspire the necessary climate action in wider society to reduce Ireland’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 51% and energy efficiency by 50%, both by 2030.

The Marine Institute works towards these government targets, whilst continuing to undertake key national research programmes and deliver services to our clients and stakeholders relating to the sustainable use of our marine resource.

Strategic Priority impacted:
7: Our Organisation, Committing to Sustainability





Staff from the Molecular Biology Unit (Fish Health Unit & Shellfish Microbiology) and Phytoplankton Team (Shellfish Safety) with 'My Green Lab' certification

What are we doing?

We are decarbonising our infrastructure and equipment, using renewable energy sources, such as solar power for our buildings and marine instrumentation. We are also reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and, instead, making use of renewable technologies, where possible, to power our research vessels, buildings and vehicles.

The Institute is now generating onsite renewable energy having installed two solar PV rooftop systems in 2023. 783 panels, producing up to 291,611 kWh of electricity a year have been installed in Oranmore headquarters in Co. Galway, and a smaller 76 panel system, producing c. 29,395 kWh a year, was installed in Newport Research Facility in Co. Mayo.

As the research vessels account for c.81% of the total energy consumed by the Institute, it's critical that they operate as efficiently and sustainably as possible. Following a successful trial in 2023 replacing Marine Gas Oil with Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as an alternative greener fuel, the vessels, in 2024, utilised up to 35% HVO as a portion of the vessels' fuel supply. HVO is a low-carbon biofuel that serves as a replacement for fossil fuels.

Other recent building related energy efficiency projects include a boiler upgrade at Oranmore, LED lighting upgrades throughout the Oranmore and Newport buildings, and air conditioning upgrades in Oranmore (with centralised control to meet the requirements of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive).

The Marine Institute's 'My Green Lab' certification programme reduces the environmental impact of laboratories in four key areas – energy, water, waste and chemical use – through a combination of organisational activities and behaviour change programmes. Four teams in the Institute have achieved certification through the programme to date and more areas are in progress.

Cross organisation sustainability measures include increasing digitisation of our administrative processes (thereby reducing paper use), cessation of single use items where possible, water conservation, and reducing food waste. 'Get Greener' teams at the Institute continue to promote energy efficiency and behavioural change through audits and awareness campaigns.



What impact is this work having?

The energy reduction programme began in 2016, focusing initially on Oranmore headquarters but quickly expanded to include the research vessels and Newport Research Facility operations. The focus of the programme was extended to include sustainability and biodiversity, in tandem with energy reduction.

Since the programme began, significant savings have been made in our buildings – reducing our use of electricity, and our use of Liquified Petroleum Gas and Kerosene (both used for heating).

The most recent Marine Institute Climate Action Roadmap (2024) details how the Institute's Oranmore facility has reduced its energy consumption by 41% (March 2024), relative to the 2015 baseline.

For 2023, the Institute's energy intensity came in at 221 kWh/m², indicating that the Oranmore building is outperforming that of similar research-intensive buildings (Reference: *AUDE Benchmarking pg. 93, AUDE EMR 2023 DPS report*).

The impact of the new solar panels installed in Oranmore and Newport has already shown itself – a total yield of 253.15 MW of electricity has been produced January to December 2024 for the buildings, reducing the Institute's reliance on grid electricity.

Additionally, 9,672 kW was exported to the grid from the Newport system (January – December 2024). Being in a position to generate our own energy and export excess back to the grid is a significant result for our energy efficiency programme.

The 2023 SEAI Monitoring & Reporting cycle shows that the Institute has seen an overall energy efficiency of 39.7% (2023 relative to 2009). We have reduced total emissions by 313,455 kgCO₂ (2023) and are projected to exceed the 51% CO₂ target by 2030.

Take a listen

Jane Kilcoyne, who is an analytical chemist with the Marine Institute, featured on the popular *Nature* podcast in September 2024. She describes how she and colleagues reduced the carbon footprint of the marine biotoxin monitoring lab (including reducing energy consumption, composting shellfish waste, polystyrene recycling, digitising documentation and much more).



[Listen here](#)

Did you Know?

The Marine Institute publishes a yearly Climate Action Roadmap which outlines and measures our work in improving energy efficiency, decarbonising our operations and striving towards increased sustainability as an organisation.



Strategic Priority 8

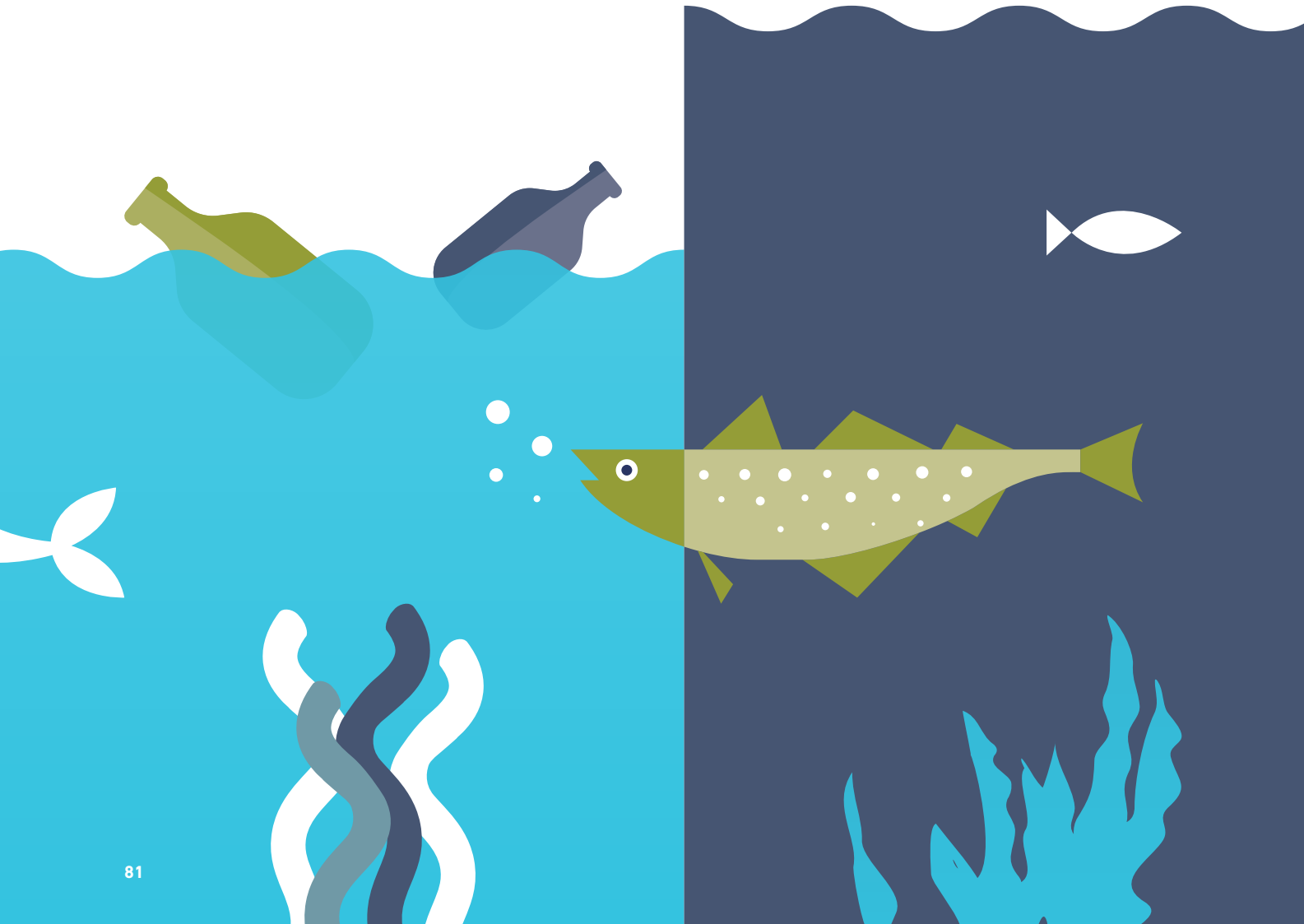
Inspiring Our Stakeholders and Society



In 2024, the Marine Institute continued to inspire stakeholders and society through a series of impactful initiatives and collaborations.

By organising educational programmes and public outreach campaigns, the Institute not only raises awareness about the crucial role the ocean plays in Ireland's economy and culture but also motivates citizens to actively engage in marine conservation efforts.

Through these efforts, the Marine Institute inspires communities and contributes to the sustainable use of ocean resources.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024:

Celebrating Ireland's Rich Maritime Heritage – 'Eolaíocht na Mara – Sea Science'

A partnership between the Marine Institute and West Kerry Museum resulted in the creation and opening of 'Eolaíocht na Mara – Sea Science' at Músaem Chorca Dhuibhne – West Kerry Museum. This new exhibition showcases Ireland's rich maritime heritage, diverse marine resource, and the Institute's role in marine research.

This new collaboration complements the Marine Institute's 'The Wild Atlantic – Sea Science' exhibit at Galway City Museum, which was again recognised by Trip Advisor's 2024 Travellers' Choice Award for Top Tourist Attraction in Ireland. In 2024, more than 100,000 visitors enjoyed the free exhibit.

These museum exhibits invite visitors to dive beneath the waves of Ireland's wild Atlantic and explore our ocean through interactive displays and digital exhibits. They help to attract tourism, deepen public appreciation for Ireland's marine environment, and foster the connection of local communities to the sea.



Hosting National Policymakers and International Delegations

Throughout 2024, the Marine Institute welcomed national and international policymakers, researchers, scientists and other delegations to our sites and onboard our research vessels.



The Dutch Ambassador to Ireland, Maaïke van Koldam, and CEO of the Marine Institute, Dr Rick Officer



The French Ambassador to Ireland, Vincent Guérend, with CEO of the Marine Institute, Dr Rick Officer, and Captain of the RV *Tom Crean*, Colin McBrearty

These visits underscored Ireland's leadership in marine science and sustainability and led to new collaborations in areas such as ocean observation and climate change. Through these efforts, the Marine Institute solidified its role as a leader in marine research, innovation, and global cooperation, inspiring stakeholders to invest in the future of the ocean and motivating society to engage with marine conservation.

Culture Night Success at the Marine Institute

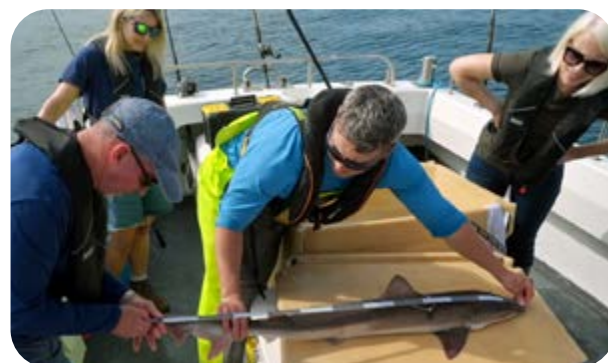
Culture Night came to the Marine Institute for the first time in September 2024. The specially curated event featured a vibrant line-up of cultural performances, immersive storytelling, captivating music inspired by the sea, and a variety of art displays.



The programme showcased Ireland's profound relationship with its marine environment and how it is immortalised through the arts. Culture Night at the Institute was a resounding success, bringing together a diverse audience, from families to marine enthusiasts, celebrating a fusion of marine science and culture.

Marine Institute's Work Features on Prime Time TV

The Marine Institute was prominently featured in two episodes of RTÉ's television series *10 Things to Know About* in November. With audience figures of over 250,000 per episode, the series on RTÉ One's primetime schedule is Ireland's flagship science programme.



The first episode of the series featured the work of Marine Institute researchers in tagging and tracking sharks, rays and skates to help us better understand these creatures while a later episode explored sustainable food production and the Marine Institute's role in aquaculture, and, in particular, Integrated Multi Tropic Aquaculture (IMTA).

INFOMAR Website Takes Deep Dive into Shipwrecks of Ireland

The INFOMAR website continued to attract visitors, keen to take a look at its downloadable charts, seabed and sediment viewer, blue scale maps and much more. The website (infomar.ie) had 86,015 visits between January and December 2024, which included 21,462 new users of the site.

Expanding on its highly successful 2023 Blue Maps series, INFOMAR launched a new infographic series, Shipwrecks of Ireland. This series takes a deep dive into Ireland's maritime history, detailed 3D maps and histories of shipwrecks. In total, 542 shipwrecks have been mapped since 2001.

Empowering our Marine Scientists of the Future: Summer Bursary Programme



The Marine Institute's Annual Summer Bursary Programme empowered 23 students in 2024 to enhance their marine science skills and gain insights into careers in the marine sector.

Participants gained research, presentation, and networking skills, creating a pathway to employment. Many past bursary participants have gone on to contribute to the Marine Institute as team members, reinforcing the programme's lasting impact.

CASE STUDY

Explorers Education Programme: inspiring and educating children to become ocean champions

For close to 20 years, the Explorers Education Programme has been engaging with primary school students, teachers, the public and the education network, to create the next generation of marine leaders and ocean champions in Ireland.



Students from Dooagh National School (recipient of the Explorers Ocean champion National School Award 2024) with Dr Rick Officer, CEO of the Marine Institute

The programme inspires children and educators to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources. It promotes our marine and maritime identity and heritage, and helps to introduce the work of the Marine Institute to a new generation.



More than 14,000 children, hundreds of teachers and student teachers, and thousands of members of the public engage annually with the programme.

Funded by the Marine Institute, it is managed and delivered in 14 coastal counties by the Explorers Team of Camden Education, Galway Atlantaquaria, SeashoreKids, Oceanics Surf School, Old Cork Waterworks Experience, Sea Synergy, and Leave No Trace Ireland.

The programme has a focus on hands-on activities, exploration, and real-world contexts and experiences – it includes aquarium-in-the-classroom modules, sea-shore safaris, STEM workshops, and the Healthy Ocean School Project. Educational modules developed in 2024 included content on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy.

The new Primary School Curriculum Framework (2023) is used by the Explorers Education Programme, providing new opportunities for teachers and children to develop a range of skills, including blue skills and ocean literacy.



Galway kids celebrating European Maritime Day with Sibeal Regan from the Explorers Education Programme

Schools can complete Healthy Ocean

School Projects and have the opportunity to submit them for an Explorers Ocean Champions Award. Examples of recent projects show the range of creativity and innovation of the students – from developing podcasts to writing and performing songs, and from organising beach cleans to developing science and artwork around ocean life.

Schools host guest speakers or visit people from their local community who share stories about working in the marine sector and protecting the marine environment, making the connection to the ocean tangible and relatable for primary school students.

The Explorers Education Programme team take part in outreach events like the Galway Science and Technology Festival, World Ocean Day Webinars, Native Species Weekend at Dublin Zoo, and Cork Carnival of Science.



What impact is the Explorers Education Programme having?

Evaluation of the results in schools shows an average annual increase in student ocean literacy and knowledge of greater than 20%.

Results also show a significant increase in teachers’ and student teachers’ knowledge of ocean literacy concepts, including ocean life, habitats, exploration, as well as ocean and the climate, and people’s connection with the ocean.

79% of teachers indicate that they shared the content with other people and networks, including teachers in the staff room, on social media, and with friends and family.

The Explorers Education Programme has made waves in the wider education sector too – winning ‘Best Education Outreach Award’ in 2023 at the annual Education Awards. The award was received for the Explorers Healthy Ocean Project & Ocean Champion Awards.



The class loved the experience and it has had a real impact on their learning. They remember much of what they encountered and have a real interest in the marine environment now. In terms of my teaching, it has really made me realise the impact of outdoor field trips with the children and the importance of teacher knowledge.



Noirin de Barra, Sixth Class Teacher, Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Alainn, Co. Cork



We are so delighted to have been given the opportunity to work with the Explorers Education Programme and other members of the community. The children took the lead in this Healthy Ocean Project, ‘The Basking Sharks’, and I will never forget the sense of collaboration and teamwork they achieved. As a small school, we set out to make an impact and we are delighted it has had a ripple effect on the children’s parents, families and friends, and many others. The award recognises the school’s efforts for being ocean champions, where we have not only learned but also made a positive impact.



Irene Gielty, Dooagh National School Principal
(the school in Achill, Co. Mayo was the winner of the Explorers Ocean Champion School National Award 2023-2024)



Take a deep dive into the Explorers Education Programme explorers.ie

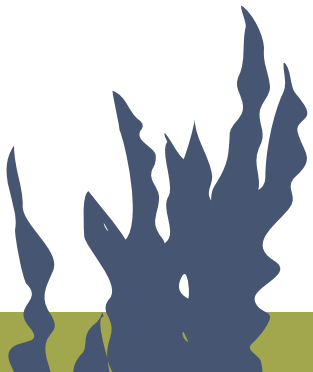


PHOTO CREDITS

P2	Photo: Andrew Downes.	P16	Photo: David McGloin.
P4	Photo: Gerard McCarthy.	P17	Clew Bay. Photos: David Brannigan.
P5 + 6	A Year in the Life of the Marine Institute:	P24	Photos: Constantino Pana (University of Texas Institute).
1	Boarfish. Photo: Jonathan White.	P25	Photo: Tomas Szumski.
2	RV Celtic Explorer in Greenland. Photo: Constantino Pana (University of Texas Institute).	P27	Photo: Jonathan White
3	IMBDON buoy. Photo: Tomas Szumski.	P31	Photo: Andrew Downes.
4	Galway kids celebrating European Maritime Day with Sibeal Regan from the Explorers Education Programme. Photo: Cushla Dromgool-Regan.	P33	Photo: Kelly Oysters.
5	Solar panels on the roof of the Marine Institute’s headquarters in Oranmore, Co Galway	P38	Photos: Paul Reardon.
6	Máire Éinniú at MIIN event in Co Mayo.	P39	Photo 1: Pictured are John Bell, European Commission, Niall McDonough, Marine Institute, Rick Officer, Marine Institute, Sinéad McSherry, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Colin Stafford-Johnson. wildlife cameraman, director and broadcaster and Deirdre Lillis, DFHERIS. Photo: Jason Clarke.
7	Ocean Climate Survey.		Photo 2: Panel on ‘One Global Ocean’ at Ocean Knowledge 2030 (from left to right) - Karen Coleman (Moderator), Carl Grainger, Department of Foreign Affairs, Jan Mees, Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Claire Jolly, OECD, John Bell, European Commission, Dave Reid, Chair of ICES Science Committee (SCICOM). Photo: Jason Clarke.
8	IFSTL Final Project Event.	P42	Photos: Jason Clarke.
9	Young visitors at the ‘Eolaíocht na Mara – Sea Science’ exhibit in West Kerry Museum. Photo: Domnick Walsh.	P46	Photo: Marcus Fontela.
10	Eurofleets+ Funded cruise IOPD scientists onboard the RV Sanna. Photo: Wieter Boone, VLIZ.	P47	Photo: Wieter Boone, VLIZ.
11	Angel shark tagging.	P50	Photo: Gerry O’Halloran.
12	The French Ambassador to Ireland, Vincent Guérend, with CEO of the Marine Institute, Dr Rick Officer.	P55	Photo: Ports de Normandie.
13	Culture Night celebrations in the Marine Institute, Oranmore, Co Galway. Photo: Andrew Downes.	P56	Photo 2: Cherbourg: Jérôme Houyvet-Biplan.
14	The Norovirus testing programme lab.	P59	Salmon farm, Bantry, Co Cork. Photo: Coast Monkey.
15	Newport Staff Day 2024.	P60	Photo: Jonathan White.
16	Amelia Hilley and Mairead O’Sullivan at Ocean Knowledge 2030.	P61	Photo: Andrew Downes.
17	One of the discussion panels at Ocean Knowledge 2030. Photo: Jason Clarke.	P63	Photo 2: Andrew Downes.
P8	Photo: Andrew Downes.	P82	Photo 1: Domnick Walsh, Photo 3: Andrew Downes.
P9	Photo: Jason Clarke.	P83	Culture Night photos: Andrew Downes.
P11	Photo: Jonathan White.	P85	Photo: Michael McLaughlin.
P12	Photo: Ciaran O’Donnell.	P86	Photo: Cushla Dromgool-Regan.
P15	Photo 2: Coast Monkey, Photo 3: Andrew Downes.		

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

The Marine Institute operates to best practice corporate governance principles in line with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The Marine Institute has in place a range of procedures, policies and guidelines to ensure compliance with the Code and it is the policy and practice of the Institute to support the development and strengthening of an effective control environment, risk management system and Internal Audit function.

Procurement and Financial Management

The Marine Institute has an appropriate public procurement process which is compliant with EU and national rules. 46 tenders were advertised on the Etenders website (etenders.gov.ie) in 2024, in addition to procuring through the Office of Government Procurement’s relevant Framework Agreements.

It is Marine Institute policy to ensure that all invoices are paid promptly within the terms of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2012. Systems and procedures are in place enabling invoices to be tracked and to ensure that payments are made in a timely and efficient manner. Procedures are also in place to ensure that late interest is paid, if required.

Protected Disclosures

There were no Protected Disclosures during the year.

Compliance Standards in Relation to Queries from Oireachtas Members

The Marine Institute complied fully with standards and requirements relating to responding to queries from Members of the Oireachtas.

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

The Marine Institute integrates human rights and equality issues into every aspect of how it performs its mandated functions on an ongoing basis. The Institute ensures accessible data, information and services, and has operational structures that eliminate discrimination and ensure equity in how it operates.

In devising the Marine Institute’s strategic plan *Ocean Knowledge that Informs and Inspires* (2023-2027), the organisation had regard to the protection of the human rights of employees and service users.

The strategic plan specifically notes that the Institute’s contribution to society is enabled through governance structures, with a focus on fairness, transparency, inclusion, ethical conduct, compliance, responsible and fair procurement, and value for money for the State and public.

Within the strategic priority *Empowering our people to deliver excellence*, the Institute’s strategic plan also identifies a commitment to a diversity of workplace, and investment in structures that provide equal access and opportunity to all. A specific strategic initiative was identified, being the enablement of the Marine Institute Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group to advance equality of opportunity for all, with specific actions focusing on gender equality.

The development of the Marine Institute Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Strategy and Action Plan (including Gender Equality Plan) 2024-2027, during 2024, also considered and assessed equality and human rights duties and devised specific actions which will be enacted and measured.

Other developments and actions in 2024 in relation to addressing equality and human rights issues include:

- Continuing to advance the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Programme, celebrating difference, understanding and removing barriers, promoting and fostering equality of treatment and opportunity
- An extremely active Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group which seeks to ensure representation from all staff grades, roles, backgrounds, Service Groups, and Marine Institute sites
- Continuing to adopt a consultative approach to communicating and assessing human rights and equality issues, for example, in implementing policies, assessing action plans and agreeing work plans
- Devising training and development plans for those working with us
- Preparation of gender pay gap reporting and analysis of trends and drivers of same

Data Protection

The Marine Institute meets its data protection compliance under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Acts 1988-2018. One low risk data breach was reported to the Data Protection Commissioner in 2024. Immediate mitigation measures were enacted, resulting in no harm to the data subject and no penalties or loss has arisen from same.

Liaison

The programme of the Marine Institute covers a wide range of activities that require close liaison

and cooperation with many individuals and organisations.

These include the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Department of Transport, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, as well as other governmental departments and State agencies (such as Bord Iascaigh Mhara, the Environmental Protection Agency, Taighde Éireann, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland and many more), private enterprises and the higher education sector.

The Institute acknowledges the continued support and cooperation of all concerned.

Ethics and Public Office Act 1995 and 2001

All persons holding a designated position within the Marine Institute complied with the requirements of the Public Office Commission in accordance with the Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 and 2001.

Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

The Institute reports compliance regarding advertising, signage, publications and other requirements of the Official Languages Act 2021 (as amended). The Irish Officer can be contacted at ato@marine.ie.

Risk Management

The Board of the Marine Institute sets the tone and risk appetite for the organisation with the Executive; ensuring that there is an established and robust risk management framework in place that supports the ongoing proactive identification and mitigation of risk.

The Risk Management Policy, which is reviewed annually by the Board, sets out the organisation’s risk management objectives; the organisation’s risk appetite; and the risk management framework which details the roles and responsibilities of staff and Board members, and the process for identifying, categorising and escalating risk.

The policy and risk framework was reviewed in 2024 and addresses all the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) including the 2020 Annex to the code on Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion.

Marine Institute Risk Management Framework



Risk Register

A Risk Register is in place which identifies the key risks facing the Marine Institute and details the controls and actions needed to mitigate against those risks and assigns responsibility for the operation of mitigating controls to specific risk owners.

The Risk Register is reviewed and updated by the Joint Risk Officers in consultation with Risk Owners and the Senior Leadership Team quarterly, and reported to both the Audit and Risk Committee and to the Board.

The Marine Institute confirms that it has carried out an assessment of the organisation’s risks and the following principal risks were identified:

Risk	Mitigations
Maintaining the trust and confidence of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of Transport, other Government Departments and State Agencies, clients, key stakeholders, local communities and the general public	• Implementation of the Marine Institute's Strategic Plan 2023 to 2027 – <i>Ocean Knowledge That Informs and Inspires</i>. • Agreed structures for and forms of reporting to DAFM. • Service Level Agreements with Government Departments and State Agencies. • Regular Communications and Engagement with Stakeholders including research partners, coastal communities and industry.
Impacts of changing international and national landscape and events on resourcing including People, Financial and Operational Risk of insufficient resources to meet regulatory and mandated programme deliverables	• Careful management of these risks by Joint Risk Officers with the Executive and Board as part of Risk Management and Business Continuity policies and practices. • Effective rolling workforce, financial and operational plans in place and monitored monthly, taking account of increasing demands and pressures related to supply. • The use of Business Continuity Frameworks, Efficiency Plans to manage financial challenges should they arise, and Staff training / cross training plans and access to emergency supports. • Open dialogue with parent departments and other government departments and agencies with whom we have service level agreements and funding arrangements in place. • Regular independent audits of our operational and risk management frameworks and practices.
Loss or corruption of data or system access or failure or failure of / Interruption to Communications Infrastructure due to a Cyber Security Breach - ensuring adequate security controls and procedures in place to protect against cyber-attacks	• Implementation of appropriate industry standard ICT data and security policies, procedures and practices. • Appointment of independent Virtual Chief Information Security Officer, ongoing investment in cyber security defences. • Implementation on a phased basis with subject matter experts of the public sector cyber-security baseline framework recommendations. • Increased Investment in and planning of targeted and relevant training for staff; Implementation of IT disaster recovery plans for Marine Institute as part of overall Business Continuity Frameworks. • ICT Risk Register in place.
Risk of failure or loss of significant infrastructure including vessels, facilities and equipment deployed at sea	• Implementation of maintenance and safety policies, procedures and practices, adhering to International Safety Management Code codes for the vessels. • A Health, Safety, Environment & Quality plan is in place; coupled with tested Business Continuity Plans which include access to alternate research facilities and vessels. There are also effective crisis /emergency response frameworks in place. In the event of a total loss the high value items are covered by insurance. • Appropriate, industry standard training is in place for all land based and sea faring personnel, including for seagoing activities. • Review with subject matter experts at government level to ensure effective implementation of relevant legislation that governs infrastructure use and programme viability, including vessels at sea.

Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Reporting by Public Sector Bodies (S.I. 542 of 2009)

Sustainability and energy efficiency is a guiding principle throughout our organisation.

The Marine Institute carried out an energy audit in 2024, meeting the regulatory requirements of Statutory Instrument SI426 which requires organisations with over 250 employees or annual turnover in excess of €50 million (and for public sector bodies with a total useful floor area of more than 500m² or an annual energy spend of more than €35,000) to carry out an energy audit every consecutive four year period.

The report was structured to meet the requirements of Section 6.3 of the ISO 50001:2018 standards which will be used by the Marine Institute in its planned certification to ISO 50001 in 2025.

The Institute complies with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel and has submitted air travel data to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the last three years. We record and report where relevant all mileage undertaken for business travel purposes.

We undertake and complete the reporting requirements relating to energy use and the production of greenhouse gas and have implemented the requirements outlined in the Climate Action Mandate 2023 (2024 when agreed by Government).

The Marine Institute consumed the following in 2024:

Energy Type	Unit	2024
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	litre	198,891
Kerosene	litre	14,499
Road Diesel (DERV)	litre	11,752
Marine Gas Oil (MGO)	litre	2,104,175
Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO)	litre	494,840
HVO blend rate	%	100%
Net Electricity Imports (MPRN data)	kWh	1,701,111
Onsite RE generation – solar PV	kWh	253,150
Natural Gas (GPRN data)	kWh (gross)	1,300

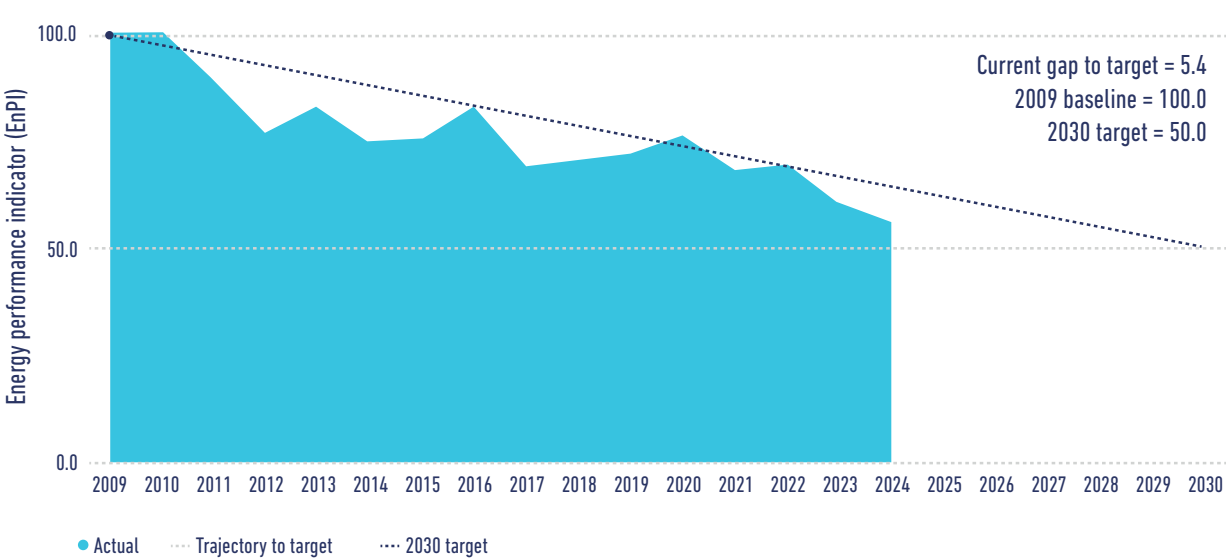
The Institute, along with all other public bodies, is required to meet national targets of 50% energy efficiency savings and a reduction of 51% in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. The GHG target is for both fossil and total CO₂ emission reductions.

Energy Performance Indicators – 2024

The Marine Institute has achieved a 44.6% efficiency since the 2009 baseline, requiring a reduction of 5.4% to meet the 50% target by 2030. Using the project pipeline, projections show a shortfall of 2.6% by 2030. The SI426 Audit identified a potential 1,568,866 kWh of energy efficiency measures across the research vessels and Oranmore HQ which is included in the pipeline. These projects, our ongoing operational procedures and “other” opportunities will be further investigated, with the intention of identifying the additional 2.6% efficiency reduction required.

To achieve the efficiency target, energy performance must improve by another 5.4% percentage points within six years.

Energy efficiency target



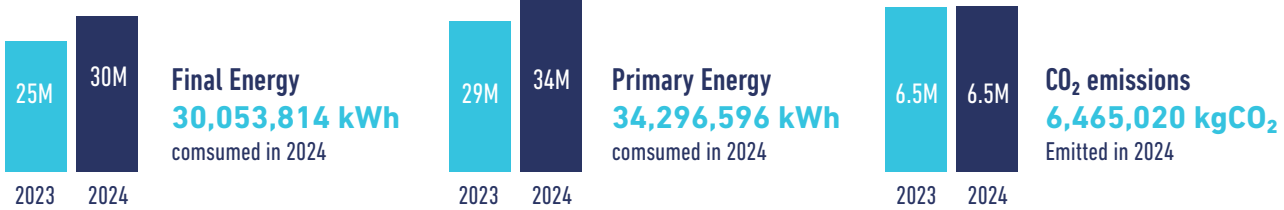
Energy consumption & CO₂ emissions

The Marine Institute consumed more energy in 2024 than 2023, resulting in a 5.6% increase above the baseline (2016-2018) for Fossil CO₂ emissions and a 5.7% reduction in Total CO₂ emissions. The increase in consumption is primarily due to the work undertaken by the research vessels; with 119 additional days at sea and travelling 4,250 nautical miles more compared to 2023. These activities are essential to delivering the Institute's remit and our contribution to marine sustainability.

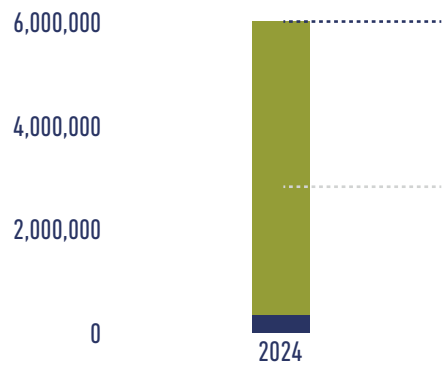
Whilst transport energy consumption increased, emissions remained the same as 2023, due to the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil as an alternative to Marine Gas Oil. Thermal consumption and emissions increased by 10,000kg CO₂, caused by operational control of a newly installed heating system in 2023, which has since been rectified.

Grid Electricity reduced by 80,000 kg CO₂, through the onsite solar PV and improvements in the grid. The Marine Institute's overall total emissions were the same as in 2023 at 6,494,344kg CO₂. A 53% reduction is required to meet the target of 3,039,239kg CO₂ by 2030. Marine Institute is committed to meet this emission target by 2030. Projections show we can meet the emissions targets if we cease using Marine Gas Oil and use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil as an alternative, this however requires significant operational budget/funding increases. Twenty percent of the fuel used to operate the research vessels in 2024 was HVO.

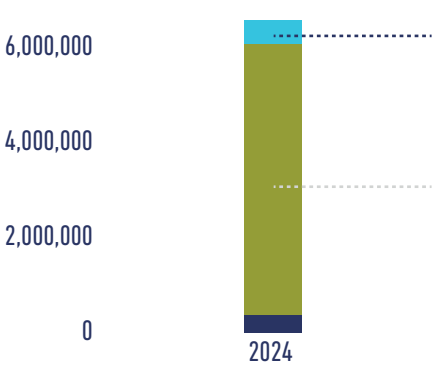
Total Energy



Fossil CO₂ target, kgCO₂



Total CO₂ target, kgCO₂

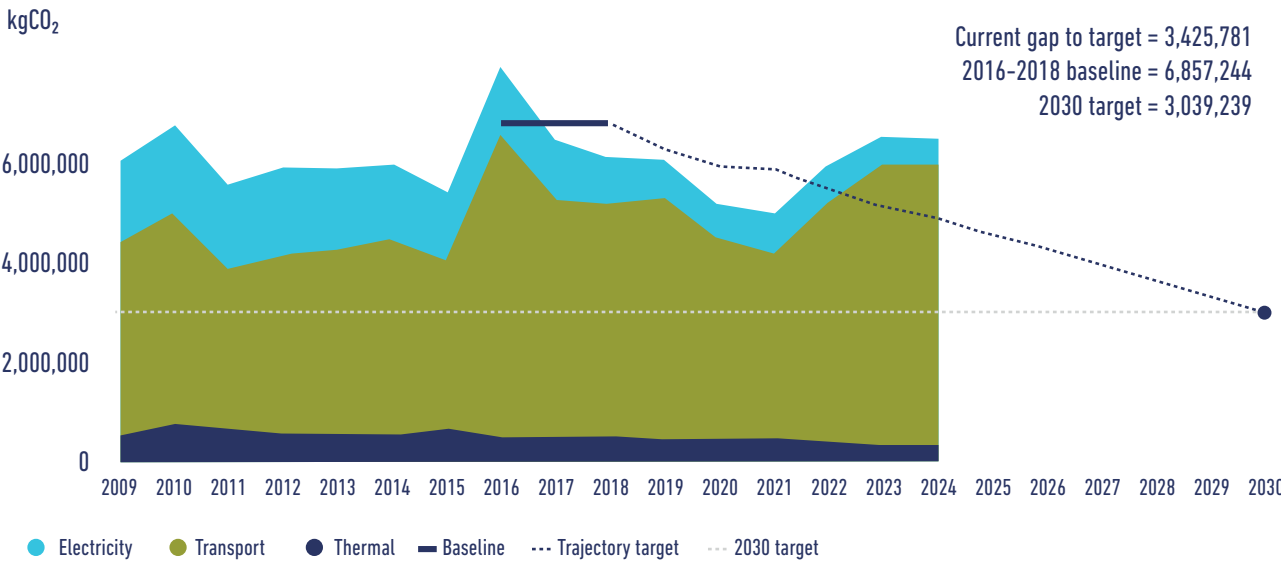


if planned projects are implemented fossil CO₂ emission target could be met

If planned projects are implemented total CO₂ emission target could be met

● Thermal CO₂ ● Transport CO₂ ● Electricity CO₂ ● Energy performance indicator 2030 business as usual 2030 target

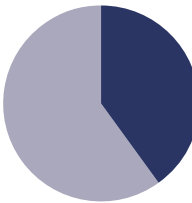
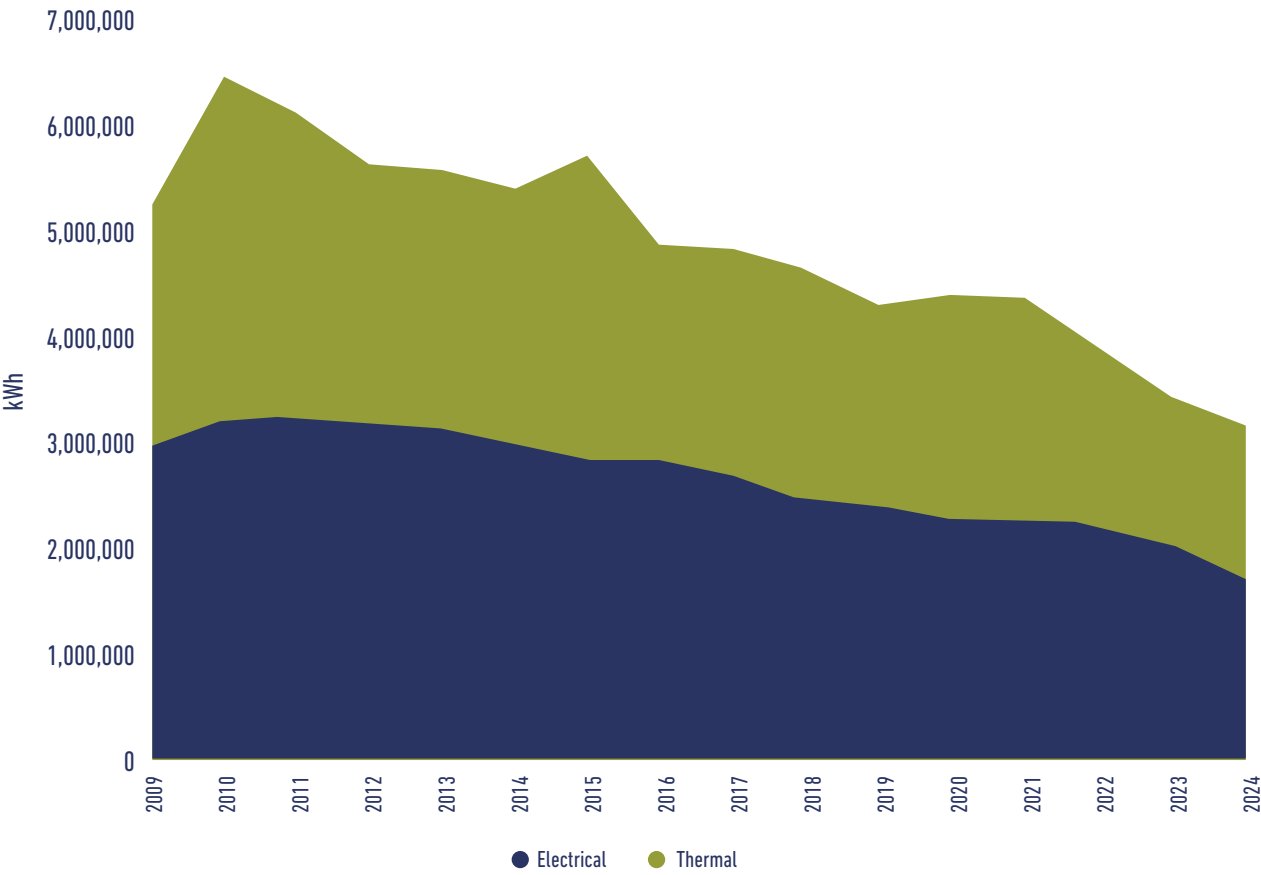
Total CO₂ target



In 2024, Oranmore Headquarters reached 40% energy reduction since joining Optimising Power @ Work in 2015. We continue to join the SEAI winter Reduce Your Use campaign and the aim is to integrate ISO50001 into our organisational

practices and procedures. We actively monitor Oranmore HQ and research vessel energy consumption to manage the use on an ongoing basis.

Oranmore HQ Energy reduction 2024 (kWh)



40%
reduction in energy consumed by Oranmore HQ building since 2009.



3 YEARS
how long the Oranmore HQ could be powered for with the savings made since 2016.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

(year ended 31 December 2024)



Dr Rick Officer,
CEO Marine Institute

Dr Rick Officer joined the Marine Institute as Chief Executive Officer in January 2024.

Dr Officer has extensive experience in sustainable fisheries, leading innovative and integrated research programmes, and driving strategic collaborations nationally and internationally. Prior to joining the Marine Institute, Dr Officer was Vice President for Research and Innovation at Atlantic Technological University. He led the integration of Research and Innovation activities at the former Galway-Mayo, Sligo, and Letterkenny Institutes of Technology, through the merger into Atlantic Technological University. He also led the establishment of the Marine and Freshwater Research Centre - ATU's largest Research Centre now comprising approximately 100 people.

Dr Officer's executive experience in leading change, delivering high performance, and achieving organisational resilience has been achieved through collegial teamwork, building cohesion around strategic imperatives, and influence within senior professional networks.

Dr Officer's professional experience of international fisheries and aquaculture was gained through his Fisheries Scientist roles in Victoria and Tasmania, and his role as Science

Leader for Fisheries and Aquaculture for the State of Queensland, Australia.

He previously led the demersal fisheries research and assessment team at the Marine Institute. As Demersal Fisheries Team Leader, Dr Officer's responsibilities included Chief Scientist roles aboard Ireland's national research vessels, appointment as National Delegate to the European Commission's Scientific, Technical & Economic Committee for Fisheries, and Chairmanship of International Working Groups and Expert Groups for the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and the European Commission.

Dr Officer has a Science degree and PhD in Fisheries Science from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and a Masters in Business Administration from University College London.



Patricia Orme,
Director of Corporate Services

Patricia is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland and holds a First Class Honours Bachelor of Commerce Degree (Law and Accounting) from National University of Ireland Galway.

Prior to joining the Marine Institute, Patricia was a Director in KPMG, one of Ireland's largest professional service providers. There, she

had more than 20 years' experience providing financial, audit, risk management, governance and advisory services to public, private, small medium enterprise and international clients. She held leadership roles with responsibility for strategy, client relationship management, financial performance and Human Resources.

Patricia has lectured on the Masters of Accounting programme at NUI Galway, delivered training and presented to Boards on Corporate Governance and other matters. From 2011 to 2018, she served on the Board of Directors and as Company Secretary of Croí Heart and Stroke Foundation. She is a Member of the Audit and Risk Committee of the Institute of Public Administration.

As Director of Corporate Services, Patricia has responsibility for Corporate Governance, Finance, Human Resources, Facilities, Communications and Library Services.

She served as the Institute's Data Protection Officer until December 2020 and currently is the Marine Institute Joint Risk Officer and Board Secretary.



Michael Gillooly,
Director of Ocean Climate and Information Services

Michael holds a Bachelor of Science (University College Galway), a Masters in Environmental Science (Trinity College Dublin) and a National Diploma in Aquatic Biology (Galway Regional Technical College, now Atlantic Technological University).

He is responsible for the leading, managing and developing of services and delivery of programmes including Research Vessel Operations, Advanced Mapping Services, Oceanography and Climate Services, Information and System Development Services, Marine Infrastructures and Ocean Energy.

Michael has 30 years' senior management experience in marine technical research and operational projects, and infrastructure projects e.g. weather and observation buoy networks, Galway Bay cabled scientific observatory. His experience also extends to operational programmes such as INFOMAR mapping, RV (Research Vessel) and ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) programmes, operational oceanography and climate change. Strategic planning experience includes the national marine plan (*Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth*), Integrated Digital Ocean programme and multiple project business planning.

Michael was co-author of the 2005/2006 INFOMAR proposal which was supported by Government as a 20 year programme (scheduled to complete in 2026), Michael was a national delegate to the Steering Council of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) from 2016 to 2018. He is currently a national delegate on the Assembly of Members of the EMSO and EURO ARGO ERICs, and is an Executive Board Member of EurOcean.

Michael was project manager of the programmes to build the Institute's two research vessels, the RV *Celtic Voyager* and RV *Celtic Explorer*, and was the Director responsible for the programme to build RV *Tom Crean*, which replaced the *Celtic Voyager*.



Dr Niall McDonough, Director of Policy, Information and Research Services (PIRS)

Niall McDonough originally trained as a marine biologist with research interests in marine aquaculture, shellfish stock restoration and marine resource management. He holds a first class BA Mod. in Zoology from Trinity College Dublin (1993) and a PhD from Queen's University Belfast (1998).

Following two years at the Environmental Change Institute at National University Ireland Galway (NUI Galway), Niall served for five years as General Manager of the Centre for Marine Resources and Mariculture (CMar), an innovation centre at Queen's University Belfast providing research, technical and advisory services for the emerging marine aquaculture sector.

From 2007 to 2009, he worked with the Marine Institute's international cooperation programme. In 2009, he was appointed Executive Director of the European Marine Board (EMB), a European marine science policy organisation based at the InnovOcean campus in Ostend, Belgium. He returned to Ireland in 2017 to take up his current role with the Marine Institute.

As Director of PIRS, Niall oversees a team and programme of work that plays a key role in supporting and promoting marine research and innovation at national and international level. He coordinates the implementation of Ireland's Marine Research and Innovation Strategy (2017-2022) and chairs the national Marine Research Funders' Forum. He oversees the Marine

Institute's circa €8 million per annum external research funding programme and is a member of the Irish Government's Innovation 2020 Implementation Group and Horizon Europe High-Level Group. In November 2020, he was elected Chair of the European Joint Programming Initiative on Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans.



Joe Silke, Director of Marine Environment and Food Safety Services (MEFSS)

Joe holds a National Diploma in Aquatic Science from Galway Regional Technical College (now Atlantic Technological University) and a Masters in Environmental Science from Trinity College Dublin. He began his career in aquaculture, working in shellfish hatcheries and on-growing facilities specialising in innovative production methods in the 1980s before transitioning to research in phytoplankton, oceanography, and marine aquaculture development.

With extensive experience in risk assessment, quality control, and environmental monitoring, Joe previously led the Marine Institute's Shellfish Safety Team, advising Government, industry, and consumers on food safety. He has an international profile, having served as an EU shellfish toxin expert, contributed to Codex, and Chaired the ICES working group on Harmful Algal Bloom dynamics and the FAO-IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms.

As Director of Marine Environment and Food Safety Services (MEFSS), Joe oversees scientific service teams supporting Government policy on seafood safety, licencing and planning, marine sustainability, fish health, and clean seas. His role encompasses overseeing assessments, monitoring programmes, and research initiatives that inform regulatory decisions and environmental management. He works closely with national and international agencies, ensuring compliance with EU and global standards while advancing scientific knowledge in marine ecosystems.



Dr Ciaran Kelly, Director of Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS)

Ciaran trained as a marine biologist and subsequently as a fisheries scientist, with a degree from Trinity College Dublin and a PhD from University College Dublin. He has been involved in advice provision to government managers and policy makers for more than 20 years, working nationally and through international organisations such as the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).

Ciaran has previously worked as a manager of integrated advice, and manager of the Office of Research and Development at the Marine Institute which was responsible for the planning and running of the Marine Institute's National Marine Research Investment programme.

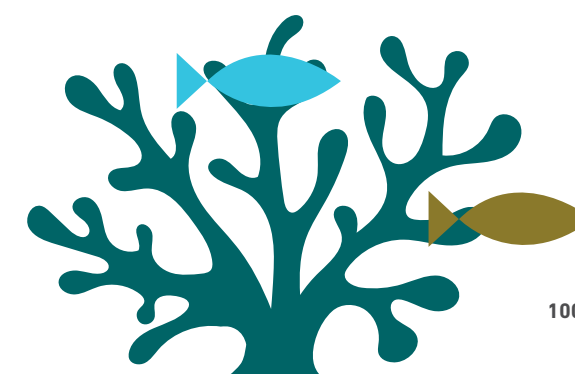
He is Director of the Institute's Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS), which undertakes resource assessments of commercial fish stocks, provides advice and policy support to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), and undertakes research on marine ecosystems, fish stocks and aquaculture.



Liam Lacey, Director of the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO)

Liam is a Fellow of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland and holds a Masters Degree in management from Trinity College Dublin. Before joining the IMDO, Liam lectured in the area of strategic management and innovation in National University of Ireland Maynooth.

He formerly worked with Irish Continental Group as Managing Director of its Container and Terminal Division. He has extensive experience in shipping, chartering and port development. Liam was a member of IBEC's Transport Council, which represents the views of industry in the area of transport and logistics.



BOARD MEMBERS

(As at 31 December 2024)



Dermot Clohessy B.Sc Eng
(2015 - 2020) (2021 - 2026)

Dermot Clohessy has an extensive understanding of foreign direct investment (FDI) having worked for 28 years with IDA Ireland. He was the IDA's Executive Director/COO from 2006 to 2015. During his career with the organisation, he had leadership responsibility across all key functional areas of the organisation. He has strong knowledge of and experience in strategy development and implementation, dealing with corporate governance, including compliance and procurement within the public sector.

Dermot was a member of the Development Task Force established to support the implementation of *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – an integrated marine plan for Ireland*. He was Chairperson of one of its subcommittees to address the Business Development, Marketing and Promotion agenda that set about sending a clear message to investors that Ireland is open for, and a good place to do, marine business.

Since leaving IDA Ireland in 2015, Dermot now works internationally as a strategic advisor on a very wide range of projects on investment and international business development, for both the private and public sectors. His work concentrates on strategy implementation, capability building and international business

development where his expertise is on implementation management. Dermot is an Engineer by profession, with additional qualifications in Business Strategy and Accounting & Finance.



Dr Berna Grist B.L.
(2015 - 2028)

Dr Berna Grist B.L., a barrister and chartered town planner, is Adjunct Professor in the School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy at University College Dublin. She holds a PhD from the University of Ulster on *The Legislative and Regulatory Framework for Development in the Republic of Ireland* and has practised as a barrister since 1991, specialising in consultancy and advisory work on planning and environmental law.

Berna has published widely in the fields of planning and environmental law, public policy and governance. Together with the late James Macken SC, she coedited the *Irish Planning Law Factbook* (2003), which she updated annually until the 2024 Planning and Development Act commenced its passage through the Oireachtas. In 2012, she published the second edition of *An Introduction to Irish Planning Law*. She has contributed to a number of environmental research projects sponsored by

the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is a member of the Irish Environmental Law Association (IELA).

Berna was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board on its establishment in 1998. During the period 2001-2006, she served as a member of An Bord Pleanála and in 2013, she was appointed to the Expert Group advising the Minister for Housing and Planning on a successor to the *National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020*. She has served on a number of State Boards and is currently a director of the Dublin Port Company.



Aodh O Domhnaill
(2021 – 2026)

Aodh O Domhnaill is a native of Co Donegal. He is CEO of the Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO) and formerly the International Sales Director with Errigal Bay, a Gaeltacht based shellfish processor and exporter. His responsibilities in that role included ongoing development of international seafood markets, with a particular focus on Asian, U.S. and Scandinavian territories.

In March 2022, Aodh took up the position of CEO of the IFPO, a body formed in 1975. The IFPO represents owners of commercial sea-fishing vessels of all sizes in the Pelagic, Whitefish, Shellfish and Inshore sectors. The Organisation is concerned with the management of members' fishing activities, both catching and marketing, with a view to making the best use of the available fish stocks and optimising returns.

Aodh has an extensive and lifelong association with the seafood sector and has worked in senior operations, sales and marketing roles. He has served as a committee member of the Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA) and on the North West Pelagic Advisory Committee. Mr O Domhnaill also served as Chairperson of the Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) for a four year term from 2007 to 2011.

Aodh is a native Gaelic speaker and has a primary degree from Trinity College Dublin. He holds a Certified Diploma in Accounting and Finance and an MBA from the Open University.



Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher
(2021 – 2026)

With over two decades of experience in operational oceanography, Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher specialises in real-time data buoy systems and metocean surveys for coastal engineering and offshore renewable energy applications.

Charlotte co-founded and leads TechWorks Marine as Managing Director. Under her leadership, TechWorks Marine has evolved from a startup concept to an internationally recognised provider of marine data services, supporting clients in optimising marine operations through advanced monitoring technologies.

Charlotte holds an Environmental Resources degree from Kingston University, a Master's in Oceanography from University College of

Wales, Bangor, and a Postgraduate Diploma in International Sales from TU Dublin. Her leadership at TechWorks Marine earned the Digital Ocean Achievement Award (2017) and an Irish Times Innovation Award finalist nomination (2019). She has coordinated multiple European Space Agency (ESA) contracts in marine earth observation over the past decade, integrating satellite data with in-situ measurements to develop innovative marine data services. As an EU Commission evaluator and frequent conference speaker, she champions real-time marine monitoring solutions.

She has chaired both Women in Technology and Science (WITS) and the Lycée Française d'Irlande, demonstrating a sustained commitment to STEM education and gender equality. Currently, she contributes to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) Offshore Wind Industry Forum and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) Expert Group on Data for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE).

During the last year, she has been appointed to chair Marine Institute board meetings by fellow Board Members, recognising her governance and marine policy expertise.

An active sailor, she participates year-round in Dublin Bay sailing activities.



Tom Tynan
(2021 – 2025)

Tom Tynan has a distinguished career in agriculture. He was educated at University College Galway (UCG), University College Dublin (UCD), Harper Adams University College Shropshire and UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, and holds a Degree in Agricultural Science and a Masters in Business. He was the 2015 UCD Alumni Award winner from the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.

Tom worked across a range of agri-business and policy areas where he held a variety of senior management roles. He was Commercial Director for IAWS Agri-business and subsequently Chief Operating Officer of Welcon AS, Norway. He served as Special Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Food & Forestry in the Irish government. He served six years as a Member of Cabinet in the EU Commissioner's Trade and Agriculture & Rural Development Cabinets where his portfolio responsibilities included agricultural markets, trade remedies, research, development & innovation, bioeconomy and biotechnology.

Currently, in addition to this role as Non-Executive Director of the Marine Institute, Tom is on the Boards of the Shannon Foynes Port Company (ROI) and Agri-Food Bioscience Institute (Northern Ireland). He previously held posts on the Board of Teagasc (Ireland's Agriculture & Food Development Authority), Agri-Aware and the Scientific Advisory Board of Alltech. He is a member of the Institute of Directors (IoD) Ireland.



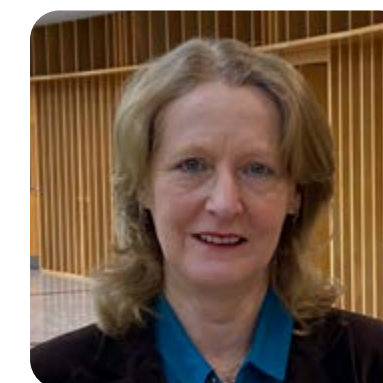
Kate Burns
(2024 – 2029)

Kate Burns is a marine and rural resources expert and founder and Managing Director of Islander Kelp Ltd. She has over 14 years' experience working on marine resource issues and over 30 years in management. Through her work in seafood, kelp cultivation, and inshore fisheries management planning, Kate has an in-depth understanding of the role of marine science and of the fisheries sector. She supported Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) in preparing the EU FLAG strategies for all six FLAG regions in Ireland in 2013 and 2014. Kate's time as Director of Initiatives with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute included the oversight of a support programme for fishers in their transition to catch share management.

Kate was previously Head of Economic Development for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (then Coleraine), followed by her appointment to CEO of the cross border body, the Irish Central Border Area Network in 2002, responsible for implementation of the INTERREG IIIA Programme Measures. She was contracted as a Director to the Cyprus Reconstruction and Resettlement Council and has prepared numerous business plans, evaluations and LEADER strategies etc. for a range of clients over 20 years.

Kate holds an MSc in Rural Development from Queens University Belfast, a Diploma in Community Development Practice from University College Galway and a BSc in

Economics & Politics from Open University. Kate served as a board member of AFBI (Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute) chairing the Science Strategy Committee. She also completed eight years on the Board of the Belfast Met College, Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority and was Chair of the Belfast Met Charitable Trust. She is currently Chair of the Leslie Foundation and board member of Causeway Coast Maritime Heritage Group.



Pauline Cronin
(2024 – 2029)

Pauline Cronin is a Certified Public Accountant and holds an MSC in Economics and Policy, with a particular focus on corporate governance in the public sector. Since 2020, she has been an external member of the Audit and Risk Committee of the Marine Institute. For the past 20 years, she has worked in the Irish Civil Service gaining experience in public sector audit, procurement and risk management. She currently works as Director of Internal Audit and Risk in the University of Galway, providing assurance to the University President and Audit and Risk Committee on the adequacy of the organisation's overall governance framework including its internal control system.

Prior to this, Pauline worked as Head of Internal Audit in the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, leading the audit function. She also served in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General for over 10 years and, later, with the European Commission in the Department of Education and Skills.





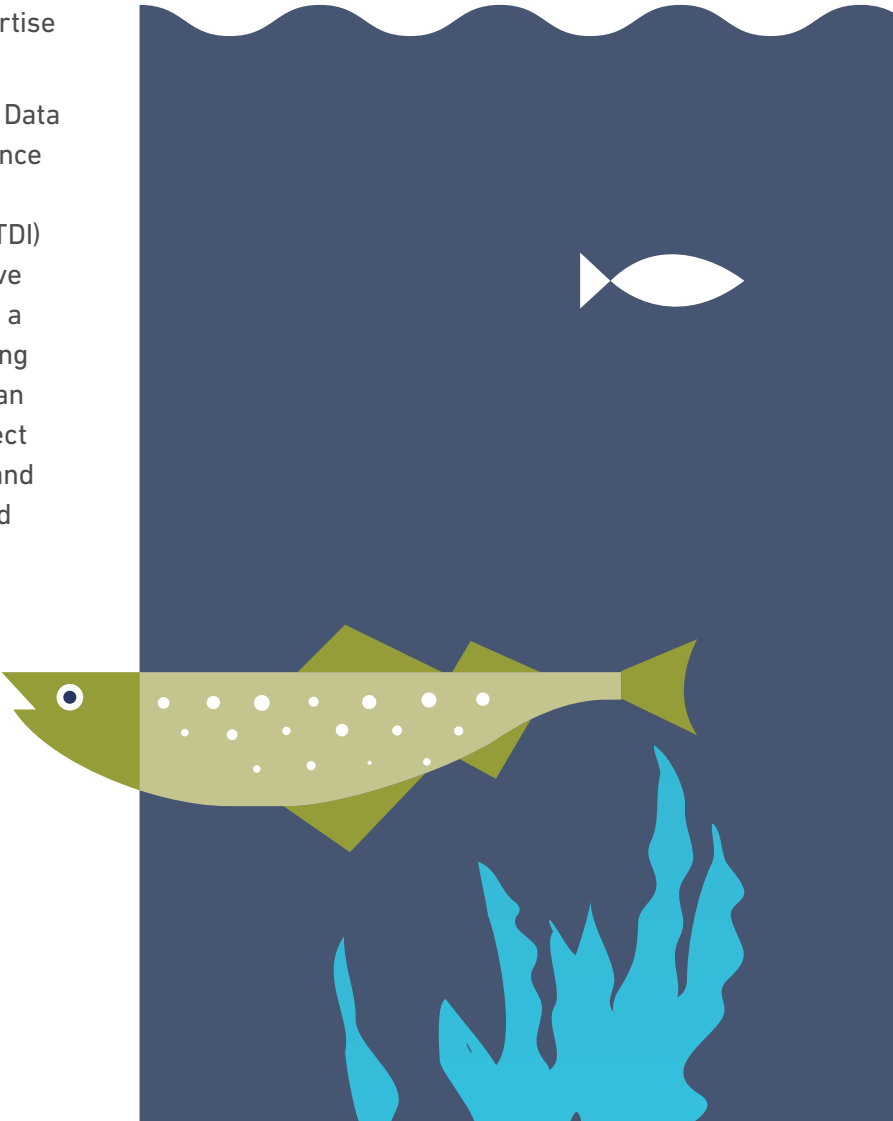
Professor Tim McCarthy
(2024 – 2029)

Prof. Tim McCarthy is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science, and Principal Investigator (PI) based in the National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG) at Maynooth University. He has over thirty years R&D experience in Earth Observation, Geographical Information Science and Geocomputation. Over the past fifteen years at Maynooth, he has led 32 externally funded research projects (with associated funding of €28 million). He has specific expertise in Marine Data Technologies.

Tim possesses core competencies in Digital Data Technologies and Digitalisation with experience gained in senior leadership Research, Technology, Development and Innovation (RTDI) roles, at a National and European level. Active RTDI roles currently held include co-leading a multi-million Euro project, 'Terrain-AI', dealing with Climate Change, coordinating a European Space Agency (ESA) multi-stakeholder project 'Atlantic Maritime Surveillance Pathfinder', and spin-out of Three Data Technology Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

Tim sits on four committees/working-groups including the Copernicus Earth Observation programme in Brussels, having been appointed in 2015, as Irish National delegate. He provides RTDI support to Industry including a number of start-up ventures, focused around Geospatial Science & Technology, Spatial Decision Support Systems and Artificial Intelligence.

Tim holds a BSc in Geology & Maths from University College Cork, an MSc in Remote Sensing from University College of London and a PhD in Geospatial Science University of London (Birkbeck).



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(year ended 31 December 2024)

CONTENTS

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General	107
Governance Statement and Board Members' Report	109
Statement on Internal Control	115
Statement of Income and Expenditure Account and Retained Revenue Reserves	120
Statement of Comprehensive Income	121
Statement of Financial Position	122
Statement of Cash Flows	123
Notes to the Financial Statements	124



Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Marine Institute

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the Marine Institute for the year ended 31 December 2024 as required under the provisions of section 12 of the Marine Institute Act 1991. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows, and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Marine Institute at 31 December 2024 and of its income and expenditure for 2024 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 – *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the Marine Institute and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

The Marine Institute has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Board members' report, and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Andrew Harkness
For and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General

27 June 2025

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of annual financial statements in the form prescribed under section 12 of the Marine Institute Act 1991
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 12 of the Marine Institute Act 1991 to audit the financial statements of the Marine Institute and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.

- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Marine Institute's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Marine Institute to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORT

Governance

The Board of the Marine Institute was established under the Marine Institute Act, 1991. The functions of the Board are set out in Section 3 of this Act. The Board is accountable to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and is responsible for ensuring good governance, and performs this role by setting strategic objectives and targets, and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of the Marine Institute are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the senior management team. The CEO and the senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board, and ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The CEO acts as a direct liaison between the Board and management of the Marine Institute. In accordance with the Marine Institute Act, the Board discharges its duties as set out below.

Board Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the *Board Standing Orders, The Schedule of Matters for Board Decision* and *The Roles of the Board, Chairman, Chief Executive and Board Secretary*, which also contain the matters specifically reserved for Board decision. Standing items considered by the Board during the period included:

- Declaration of interests
- Reports from committees
- Financial statements and items of expenditure in excess of €150,000
- Implementation of strategy and
- Reserved matters.

The Board of the Marine Institute provides leadership and strategic direction for the organisation, defining the purpose of the Institute and developing the policies required to achieve its goals. The Board sets performance indicators and measures progress against these, closely monitoring budgets and financial performance. The Board leads the organisation in behaving ethically and in a manner that accords with the core values and culture of the organisation.

Section 12 of the Marine Institute Act, 1991 requires the Board of the Marine Institute to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements, the Board of the Marine Institute is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation, and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records, which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 12 of the Marine Institute Act, 1991. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the Marine Institute’s website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the financial statements of the Marine Institute give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of the Marine Institute for the year ended 31 December 2024 and as at 31 December 2024, respectively.

Board Structure

The Board consists of a Chairperson and eight ordinary members, all of whom are appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The members of the Board were appointed for a period of five years and met twelve times in 2024. The table below details the appointment period for current members and those who were in office during the period:

Board Member	Role	Term of office
John Killeen	Chairperson	Second term commenced on 8 January 2019. Retired from Board at end of term on 7 January 2024
Berna Grist	Ordinary Member	Second term commenced on 6 February 2018. Reappointed to Board on 6 February 2023
Dermot Clohessy	Ordinary Member	Second term commenced on 4 June 2021
Charlotte O’Kelly de Gallagher	Ordinary Member	First term commenced on 4 June 2021
Aodh O Domhnaill	Ordinary Member	First term commenced on 4 June 2021
Tom Tynan	Ordinary Member	First term commenced on 11 November 2021. Resigned from Board 20 June 2025
Kate Burns	Ordinary Member	First term commenced on 25 January 2024
Pauline Cronin	Ordinary Member	First term commenced on 25 January 2024
Tim McCarthy	Ordinary Member	First term commenced on 25 January 2024

Gender Balance in the Board membership

As at 31 December 2024, the Board had 4 (50%) female and 4 (50%) male members. In filling Board vacancies during 2024, the Minister had regard to the desirability for gender balance, diversity and inclusion on the Board and the 40% minimum representation of each gender has been met. Appointments to the Board are generally for an initial period of 5 years with an option of a second term.

Audit and Risk Committee

Introduction

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is a Committee of the Board of the Marine Institute and, during the year ended 31 December 2024, the membership comprised of the following:

- Pauline Cronin (Chairperson as at 31 December 2024)
- Dermot Clohessy
- Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher
- Tom Tynan
- Sinead Ní Fhátharta (external member)

Pauline Cronin was appointed to the Board of the Marine Institute on 25 January 2024 and appointed as Chair of the ARC on 27 February 2024. Dermot Clohessy served as Interim Chairperson of the ARC for the January 2024 meeting, with Tom Tynan holding the position for the February 2024 meeting.

Sinead Ní Fhátharta was appointed as the external member of the ARC on 8 July 2024. Prior to her appointment to the Board, Pauline Cronin had served as an external member of the ARC.

The ARC is independent from the financial management of the Marine Institute.

Role of ARC

The role of the ARC is to oversee and advise the Board and the Chief Executive Officer on matters relating to:

- Financial, operating and governance risks, including overall risk management;
- The effectiveness of the internal controls and risk management;
- The effectiveness of internal audit function;
- Communication with the Internal Auditor;
- Communication with the Comptroller and Auditor General;
- Matters raised by the Internal Auditor and the Comptroller and Auditor General;
- The adequacy of governance procedures;
- Value for money issues;
- Such other matters as the Board requests ARC to investigate, consider and make recommendations to the Board.

The Marine Institute is audited by the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General. In exercising oversight of the relationship with the External Auditor, the ARC meets with representatives of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in advance of the commencement of the audit and again following completion of the audit. There were no material matters of concern arising from those meetings.

The Committee also monitors the integrity of the financial statements prepared by the Institute.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the ARC have been approved by the Board and are reviewed on an annual basis and amended as appropriate.

Conflicts of Interest

At each of its meetings, the ARC considers the possibility of conflicts of interest arising in relation to its agenda and such conflicts are dealt with in accordance with the Board's policy.

2024 Work Programme and Areas identified for focus

The ARC's work programme was approved by the Board in January 2024. That programme was reviewed in December 2024 to ensure that all matters were dealt with during the course of the year. The ARC met seven times during 2024. The ARC had two meetings with the auditors who represented the Comptroller and Auditor General. The ARC gives an oral report to the Board directly after each meeting; presents its minutes to the Board after approval and reports formally to the Board annually.

During the year, the ARC also met with members of the management team in order to receive briefings and have an opportunity to have all queries and suggestions discussed in relation to the following areas: Risk Management, Business Continuity Planning, GDPR, Procurement, ICT and Cyber Security.

Additionally, the ARC sought specific reports from the Director of Corporate Services to assure the Committee on fraud, corruption and bribery, capital expenditure, taxation compliance and protected disclosures.

The role of Chairperson of the Board was vacant from 8 January 2024. The Chairperson of the ARC met with the Board appointed Chair of the Marine Institute Board Meetings on a number of occasions during the year to discuss issues relating to the work of the ARC and ways in which the ARC could assist the Board in the conduct of its work.

The ARC also focused on the following specific areas in 2024:

Review of Risks

Issues such as Procurement Risks, Risks relating to outsourcing, GDPR Risks, Fraud Risks, Cyber Security and IT Risks, Resourcing, Funding and Protected Disclosure Risks were constantly monitored formally and informally by regular communication with the management team and the Board during the year.

Internal Audit Services

The ARC completed an Effectiveness evaluation on the outsourced internal audit function.

Performance Evaluation

The Audit and Risk Committee commenced a self-evaluation of its performance at the end of 2024, having obtained an external independent review in the preceding year. The report of the independent reviewer has been considered and a programme put in place to address the findings.

Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings for 2024 is set out below. The table also includes the fees and expenses received by each member:

Name	Board Attendance	Audit and Risk Committee Attendance	Fees 2024 €	Expenses 2024 €
John Killeen	1		217	-
Aodh O Domhnaill	12		7,695	3,539
Berna Grist	12		7,695	-
Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher	11	7	7,695	5,226
Dermot Clohessy	12	7	7,695	1,835
Kate Burns	10		7,193	2,116
Pauline Cronin *	11	7	-	986
Tim McCarthy *	10		-	2,007
Tom Tynan	12	7	7,695	3,086
Sinead Ní Fhátharta *	n/a	3	-	-
Total – Fees/Expenses €	n/a	n/a	45,885	18,795
Total Number of Meetings	12	7		

* Pauline Cronin, Tim McCarthy and Sinead Ní Fhátharta (Independent ARC member) did not receive fees under the One Person One Salary (OPOS) principle in 2024.

Consultancy Costs

Consultancy costs include the cost of ad-hoc external advice and excludes outsourced business functions.

	2024 €	2023 €
Legal	57,936	96,881
Financial and Governance	128,372	143,230
Human Resource and Pensions Advisory	15,297	30,434
Strategy, project review and other business advisory services	233,959	9,750
Award Evaluators	160,844	150,561
Information Technology related	20,787	24,864
Shipping Development and related Research Consultancy	239,406	96,449
Other	142,552	290,643
	999,153	842,812

Legal Costs and Settlements

The Marine Institute had no legal costs or settlements in connection with disputes with third parties. This does not include expenditure incurred in relation to general legal advice received by the Marine Institute, which is disclosed in Consultancy costs above.

Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
Domestic:		
Board	17,050	12,792
Employees	668,485	587,703
International		
Board	1,745	-
Employees	428,213	453,591
	1,115,493	1,054,086

The amount of €18,795 (2023: €12,792) was paid directly to Board Members to reimburse them for domestic travel and subsistence incurred during 2024.

Hospitality Expenditure

The Statement of Income and Expenditure includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	2024 €	2023 €
Staff	14,872	11,399
Client	27,444	20,147
	42,316	31,546

Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) (as amended in 2020) and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code.

Having completed his term of office, John Killeen retired as Board Chairperson on 7 January 2024. The role of Chairperson remained vacant since then. Except for the impact of this vacancy, the Marine Institute was in full compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies at 31 December 2024.

On behalf of the Board

Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher

Board Member

Date: 24 June 2025

On behalf of the Board

Pauline Cronin

Board Member

Date: 24 June 2025

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

1. Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of the Marine Institute, We acknowledge the Board’s responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 (as amended in 2020).

2. Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, has been in place in the Marine Institute for the year ended 31 December 2024 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

3. Key Control Procedures

The Board of the Marine Institute has established a strong and robust control environment in the Marine Institute through:

- Holding regular Board meetings where the agenda includes strategic issues such as corporate governance, financial management and corporate strategy
- The implementation of the Marine Institute Strategy
- Clearly defined management responsibilities, authority and accountability, delegation of appropriate functions and reviewing and approving all Marine Institute policies
- Approval of annual budgets, cash flow forecasting and capital programme expenditure with formal review of these at each Board meeting
- The work of the Audit and Risk Committee, which met seven times in 2024
- Completion of a programme of internal audits. Regular meetings were held between the Audit and Risk Committee and the Internal Auditors to discuss their work programme, the outcomes of their audits, their recommendations and a private meeting was held without members of the executive
- The operation of a risk management system with annual review of the risk policy and regular review of the risk register and report from the joint risk officers
- Robust systems of health and safety, with monthly reports to the Board
- Monitoring of compliance with legislation including Freedom of Information and Access to Environmental Information

- Implementation of a Protected Disclosures Policy, through which the Institute encourages anyone having in good faith suspicions of fraud, financial irregularity of other improper behaviour or practice; to report this in accordance with the procedures set out in the policy. There were no protected disclosures made in 2024
- Consideration of any recommendations made by the External Auditor
- The systems of internal control as detailed in the Marine Institute Operating Control Framework which sets out the key controls in place within the Institute, together with the owner of each control. To further improve the quality of the report, certain control owners have submitted an Assurance Statement for each set of controls in respect of 2024.

Statement on Internal Control

The Statement on Internal Control was reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 24 February 2025 and approved by the Board of Directors on 25 February 2025.

Financial and Budgetary Management Systems

There is a comprehensive annual budgeting system with annual income, budget allocation process, cash flow forecasting and capital programme budgeting reviewed and approved by the Board at the start of each year, with formal review at each subsequent Board meeting. Policies and procedures are in place in relation to budgetary and financial matters, with procurement contracts with a value in excess of €150,000 coming to the Board for consideration and approval. There are regular reviews by the Executive of financial management reports and a Corporate Procurement Plan is in place.

Procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the Internal Control System

The 2024 Internal Audit Plan was implemented in full with the following audits commenced or completed during the calendar year:

- High Level Review of Internal Controls for 2023 (commenced in 2023, completed in 2024)
- Blended Working Audit
- Outsourcing and Contract Management Audit
- Value for Money Audit
- High Level Review of Internal Controls for 2024 (commenced in 2024, completed in 2025)

Implementation plans to address internal audit recommendations are approved by the Audit & Risk Committee. Progress on the implementation of the agreed actions is reviewed annually and reported to the Audit & Risk Committee.

The Internal Audit Plan for 2024 reflected the risks identified in the Marine Institute’s Risk Register, the management letter of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and general developments in relation to Corporate Governance. The Internal Audit Plan for 2024-2026 was approved by the Audit & Risk Committee in December 2023 and by the Marine Institute Board in January 2024. This is a rolling plan which is updated annually for current risk assessments, the results of audits and to consider the impact of any change in the environment in which the Institute operates and general corporate governance developments.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Marine Institute has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising four Board members, one of whom is the Chair, and one non Board member, with a broad range of experience including financial and audit expertise.

The Marine Institute has also established an internal audit function, which is outsourced to a commercial firm. It is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC and approved by the Board.

The ARC oversees the implementation of the risk management policy, which sets out the Marine Institute’s risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff so as to ensure management are alert to emerging risks and so that each staff member is aware of their responsibility for mitigation of risk and operation of controls within their own area of work.

In 2024, the ARC work plan included specific review of the risks such as Procurement Risks, GDPR risks, Fraud risks, Cyber security and IT risks, and management oversight and monitoring risks. These were constantly monitored formally and informally by regular communication between the ARC, the Senior leadership team and the Board during the year.

The financial implications of business risks have been considered through the formal business risk assessment process and in the preparation of the Marine Institute’s Internal Audit Plans. A comprehensive set of Financial Procedures have been put in place to control the significant financial elements of the Marine Institute’s business including authorisation limits for purchasing/expenditure. These Procedures are subject to regular review.

Risk and Control Framework

The Marine Institute has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

The Marine Institute’s Risk Management Policy and Business Continuity Policy are in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 (as amended in 2020). The Marine Institute has appointed Joint Risk Officers. A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing the Marine Institute and these have been identified, evaluated and ranked according to their significance. The register is updated by the Executive on a quarterly basis and presented to the ARC. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are mitigated against and managed to an acceptable level.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate against risks and assigns responsibility for the operation of controls to specific staff. We confirm the following with regard to the control environment:

- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented and are regularly reviewed
- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability
- There is an appropriate budgetary system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management
- There are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems

- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets, and
- Control procedures over grant funding to outside agencies ensure adequate control over approval of grants and monitoring and review of grantees to mitigate against the risk that grant funding might not be applied solely for the purpose intended.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board, where relevant, in a timely way. We confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- Key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- There are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts.

Procurement

We confirm that the Marine Institute has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines. The Institute was in compliance with these procedures during 2024.

Review of Effectiveness

We confirm that the Marine Institute has procedures in place to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. An external independent review of the Board and the Audit and Risk Committee commenced in 2023 and was completed in 2024. A self-evaluation of the effectiveness of the Board and the Audit and Risk Committee commenced in late 2024 and was completed in early 2025. The Marine Institute’s monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work, and the senior management within the Marine Institute responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

Annual Review of the Effectiveness on Internal Control

We confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of internal controls for 2024 and was approved by the Board on 25 February 2025. In undertaking this review, the Board considered the following:

- Risk management policies, systems and procedures
- The internal audits conducted
- The operating control framework and related assurance statements
- Results of the external audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General
- The work of the Audit and Risk Committee
- Other elements of the Governance Structure and system of controls

Internal Control Issues

There were no material losses, frauds or breaches in control in 2024.

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in 2024 that require disclosure in the Statement on Internal Control.

On behalf of the Board



Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher
Board Member
Date: 24 June 2025

On behalf of the Board



Pauline Cronin
Board Member
Date: 24 June 2025

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND RETAINED REVENUE RESERVES

Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Income			
Oireachtas Grants	2	43,050	41,345
Other State Grants	3	9,893	10,900
EU and Other Income	4	23,930	7,955
Net Deferred Funding For Retirement Benefits	19	4,837	4,549
Total Income		81,710	64,749
Expenditure			
Remuneration and Pension Costs	5	(18,247)	(16,947)
Retirement Benefit Costs	19	(4,769)	(4,711)
Vessel Operating Costs	6	(12,072)	(11,478)
Travelling Expenses	7	(1,115)	(1,054)
Grants and External Service Providers	8	(30,702)	(12,682)
Facilities Costs	9	(2,819)	(3,324)
IT, Telephone & Communications		(3,327)	(3,127)
Laboratory & Field Costs		(999)	(1,220)
Other Administration and Equipment Hire Costs	10	(3,233)	(3,216)
Depreciation	15	(6,114)	(6,048)
Total Expenditure		(83,397)	(63,807)
Transfer from Capital Account	14	1,718	1,410
Proceeds from Asset Disposal due to the Exchequer	18	-	(2,345)
Surplus for the year		31	7
Balance brought forward at 1 January		2,045	2,038
Balance carried forward at 31 December		2,076	2,045

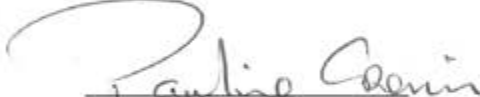
The Statement of Cash flows and Notes 1 – 24 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board



Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher
Board Member
Date: 24 June 2025

On behalf of the Board



Pauline Cronin
Board Member
Date: 24 June 2025

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Surplus for the year		31	7
Experience Gains	19	929	339
Changes in actuarial assumptions	19	(4,416)	2,525
Adjustment to defined benefit scheme funding		3,487	(2,864)
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		31	7

The Statement of Cash flows and Notes 1 – 24 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board

Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher
Board Member
Date: 24 June 2025

On behalf of the Board

Pauline Cronin
Board Member
Date: 24 June 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2023 €'000
Property, Plant and Equipment	15		39,934		41,652
Current Assets					
Receivables	17	1,237		1,476	
Cash and cash equivalents		20,710		18,982	
		21,947		20,458	
Current Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)					
Payables	18	(19,871)		(18,413)	
Net Current Assets			2,076		2,045
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities before Retirement Obligations			42,010		43,697
Deferred Retirement Benefit Obligations	19	(70,041)		(68,691)	
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding	19	70,041		68,691	
Total Net Assets			42,010		43,697
Representing:					
Capital Account	14	33,081		34,655	
Revaluation Reserve	16	6,853		6,997	
Retained Revenue Reserves		2,076		2,045	
			42,010		43,697

The Statement of Cash flows and Notes 1 – 24 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board

Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher
Board Member
Date: 24 June 2025

On behalf of the Board

Pauline Cronin
Board Member
Date: 24 June 2025

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Net Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus for the financial year	31	7
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible Property, Plant and Equipment	6,114	6,048
Transfers from Capital Account	(1,718)	(1,410)
Increase in Payables	1,458	10,550
Decrease in Receivables	239	106
Surplus from disposal of Fixed assets	(3)	(2,284)
Net cash flows from operating activities	6,121	13,017
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for tangible Property, Plant and Equipment	(4,400)	(4,699)
Proceeds from Asset Disposal (net of expenses)	7	2,345
Net cash flows from investing activities	(4,393)	(2,354)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,728	10,663
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	18,982	8,319
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	20,710	18,982

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by the Marine Institute are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year. The Institute has analysed its expenditure based on the nature of the expense as opposed to a programme basis.

a) General Information

The Marine Institute was established on 30 October 1992 under the provisions of the Marine Institute Act, 1991. The Institute headquarters is located in Rinvilla, Oranmore, County Galway, H91 R673.

The Marine Institute’s primary objectives as set out in Section 4 of the Act are

“to undertake, to co-ordinate, to promote and to assist in marine research and development and to provide such services related to marine research and development, that in the opinion of the Institute will promote economic development and create employment and protect the marine environment”.

The Marine Institute is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of The Marine Institute for the year ended 31 December 2024 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

c) Currency

The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the Institute. In instances where amounts have been rounded to the nearest thousand Euro, this is indicated by the symbol €’000.

d) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the accruals method of accounting and under the historical cost convention, except that land and property is stated at valuation less accumulated depreciation, in the form approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, in accordance with Section 12(1) of the Marine Institute Act, 1991.

The financial statements are prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. There are no events between the reporting date and the date of approval of these financial statements for issue that require adjustment to the financial statements. The Board has considered the general global environment, inflationary pressures and impacts on the price of energy and other items, the future funding of the Institute and its strategic and operational planning and have concluded that there are no material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about Institute’s ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to The Marine Institute’s financial statements.

e) Income

Oireachtas Income from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is recognised as it is received. It is received in the year to which it relates.

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) funded income is recognised in the year in which related spend is incurred.

Other State Grants are recognised on an accruals basis.

Income received in relation to EU and other contract research projects is recognised on an accruals basis whereby the income is recognised in the accounting period in which the related expenditure is charged. Income received in advance is treated as deferred income and included within Payables in the Statement of Financial Position. Expenditure incurred where the related income has not been received is treated as accrued income and shown as a Receivable in the Statement of Financial Position.

f) Property, Plant and Equipment and Depreciation

Plant and Equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Land and property is stated at valuation less accumulated depreciation. Land and property is revalued every five years by an independent professionally qualified valuer.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at rates estimated to reduce the assets to their realisable value by the end of their expected lives. The rates in use are as follows:

Property (excluding land)	2%
Leasehold Improvements	4%
Fixtures and Fittings/Equipment	25%
Computers	33%
Research Vessel	4%
Motor Vehicles	20%

The carrying values of the Property, Plant and Equipment are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year

Up to 31 December 2020, assets or groups of assets which cost at least €1,000 were capitalised on the fixed asset register. From 1 January 2021, the Marine Institute increased the threshold for capitalising assets or groups of assets from €1,000 to €10,000. This considers the nature and materiality of the Institute’s assets and is also in line with Government circular 21/2020.

g) Intangible Assets

Intangible assets comprise fishing rights held by the Marine Institute to Lough Feeagh, Lough Furnace and Estuaries in Newport, County Mayo. These intangible assets are carried in the Statement of Financial Position at their cost of €nil as their fair value cannot be reliably determined by reference to an active market.

h) Leased Assets

Rental expenditure under operating leases is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves over the life of the lease. Expenditure is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease period, except where there are rental increases linked to the expected rate of inflation, in which case these increases are recognised when incurred. Any lease incentives received are recognised over the life of the lease.

i) Capital Account

The Institute recognises funding received for capital purposes under the Accruals Model specified in FRS 102. The amount received is recognised in income on a systematic basis over the expected useful life of the asset.

j) Foreign Currencies

Transactions denominated in a foreign currency are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the date of the transactions. At the end of each financial year, foreign currency monetary items are translated to Euro using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

k) Marine Research Programme

The Marine Institute enters into commitments in respect of contracts awarded for Marine Research Programme projects. Expenditure is charged in the financial statements as it is incurred/falls due. An initial payment is made on the signing of the project contract, an interim payment may be made subject to satisfactory performance under the contract and further payments are made on receipt and verification of claims in respect of work completed. Costs incurred by the Institute in the administration of Marine Research Programme projects are funded by the capital vote of the Marine Institute and charged to the financial statements as they are incurred.

l) Employee Benefits - Short term benefits

Short term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employee renders service, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the payables figures in the Statement of Financial Position.

m) Retirement Benefits

The Marine Institute operates its own defined benefit pension scheme, funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Contributions deducted from members' salaries are paid over to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The Marine Institute also participates in the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees, and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are remitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The financial statements reflect, at fair value, the assets and liabilities arising from The Marine Institute's pension obligations and any related funding, and recognises the costs of providing pension benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees. Retirement benefit scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. They are matched by a Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding asset as the pension liabilities are guaranteed by the State.

n) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at fair value, less a provision for doubtful debts. The provision for doubtful debts is a specific provision and is established when there is objective evidence that the Marine Institute will not be able to collect all amounts owed to it. All movements in the provision for doubtful debts are recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

o) Contingencies

Contingent liabilities, arising as a result of past events, are not recognised when (i) it is not probable that there will be an outflow of resources or that the amount cannot be reliably measured at the reporting date or (ii) when the existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the Institute's control. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources is remote.

Contingent assets are not recognised. Contingent assets are disclosed in the financial statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

p) Related Parties

Related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102.

q) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the reporting date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means

that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

- ***Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment***
Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use. For the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.
- ***Depreciation and Residual Values***
The Board has reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes and in particular, the useful economic life and residual values of fixtures and fittings and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.
- ***Retirement Benefit Obligation***
The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- i. the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds
- ii. future compensation levels, future labour market conditions
- iii. health care cost trend rates and the rate of medical cost inflation.

2. Oireachtas Grants from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Current Purposes				
Marine Institute - Vote 30,Subhead D.4/D.3	28,390		27,447	
Less Superannuation contributions repayable	(740)		(702)	
	27,650		26,745	
Capital Purposes				
Marine Research Programme Vote 30, Subhead D.4 (Note 12)	15,400		14,600	
	15,400		14,600	
	43,050		41,345	

By agreement with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, employee pension contributions are refunded directly to the Department and are shown as a reduction in grant levels. Single scheme pension contributions are remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

3. Other State Grants

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Infomar (National Seabed Survey) – Department of Environment, Climate and Communications Vote 29, Subhead C.5				
Cash Received and recorded as income	2,500		2,504	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	(7)		(4)	
Amount recorded as income	2,493		2,500	
Water Framework Directive funded by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Water Quality Budget Vote 34, Subhead B.3				
Cash Received and recorded as income	1,398		1,163	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	(31)		(19)	
Amount recorded as income	1,367		1,144	
Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Ospar funded by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Marine Environment Budget Vote 34, Subhead B.8				
Cash Received and recorded as income	580		645	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	(30)		23	
Amount recorded as income	550		668	
Marine Spatial Planning funded by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Marine Spatial Planning Budget Vote 34, Subhead D.14				

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Cash Received and recorded as income	26		291	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	(29)		23	
Amount recorded as income	(3)		314	
Marine Planning Programme Budget funded by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications Vote 29, Subhead C.10				
Cash Received and recorded as income	284		-	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	-		-	
Amount recorded as income	284		-	
Other Marine Related Projects Funded by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Marine Environmental Budget Vote 34, Subhead B8				
Cash Received and recorded as income	122		138	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	-		-	
Amount recorded as income	122		138	
MARA Exempted Usage Project Maritime Area Regulatory Authority Vote 34, Subhead D.15.2				
Cash Received and recorded as income	13		116	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	46		(46)	
Amount recorded as income	59		70	
Wave Energy programme funded by SEAI Vote 29, Subhead B.5				
Cash Received and recorded as income	1,247		1,331	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	(13)		135	
Amount recorded as income	1,234		1,466	
EMFF/EMFAF projects funded by Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine Vote 30, Subhead D.3				
Cash Received and recorded as income	2,928		4,012	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	(80)		78	
Amount recorded as income	2,848		4,090	
Our Shared Ocean Programme funded by International Co-Operations Vote 27, Subhead A.3				
Cash Received and recorded as income	850		500	
Amounts (deferred)/accrued as income	89		10	
Amount recorded as income	939		510	
TOTAL	9,893		10,900	

4. EU and Other Income

	2024 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2023 €'000
EU Contract Research		18,274		1,573
Other Income				
Research Vessel Charterage	2,133		2,250	
Surplus on the Sale of Assets (net of disposal costs)	3		2,284	
Sundry and Other Contract Income	3,520		1,848	
		5,656		6,382
TOTAL		23,930		7,955

5. Remuneration and Pension Costs

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Aggregate Employee Benefits		
Staff Short term benefits	16,074	14,884
Pension Contribution *	436	509
Termination Payments	28	7
Board Fees	46	47
Movement in Holiday Pay Accrual	27	(21)
Employers Contribution to Social Welfare and other taxes	1,636	1,521
	18,247	16,947

Total salary costs include an accrual of €0.47m (2023: €0.44m) in respect of accumulated staff annual leave entitlements. Pension related deductions of €0.467m (2023 €0.469m) were made from salaries and were remitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Single pension related deductions of €0.274m (2023: €0.233m) were made from salaries and were remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

*The Pension contribution separately disclosed above is to cover the deferred cost to the Exchequer of future pension entitlements for employees on contract research and other externally funded posts. This amount was refunded to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Staff Short term Benefits		
Basic Pay	15,486	14,306
Overtime	-	-
Allowances	588	578
	16,074	14,884

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Termination Benefits		
Statutory Redundancy payments	28	7
	28	7

Statutory redundancy payments were made to five staff members (2023: one) on cessation of their fixed term or other employment contracts.

The average number of employees by location at year end is as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Employees		
Rinville Galway	217	212
Newport	16	16
Dublin	7	5
Ports	8	10
EU Based	1	2
	249	245
The whole time equivalents at each year end	242.63	237.59

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Salary and Expenses		
Basic Pay-CEO	158	83
Basic Pay- Interim CEO	-	74
	158	157

Total expenses reimbursed to the CEO in respect of business related spend was €11,702 (2023: €8,028). This includes foreign travel expenses of €1,473 (2023: €Nil).

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Key Management Personnel		
Salary	927	861
	927	861

Key Management personnel in the Marine Institute include the members of the Board and the members of the Senior Leadership Team of the Marine Institute, including the CEO. The total value of employee benefits for key management personnel is set out above. No payments were made in respect of termination payments, benefit in kind or health insurance. This does not include the value of retirement benefits earned in the period. The Senior Leadership Team including the CEO are members of either the Marine Institute Staff Superannuation Scheme 1998 or the Single Public Service Pension scheme and their entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme. Total expenses reimbursed to the Senior Leadership Team in respect of business related spend was €52,005 (2023: €43,546).

Employee Short-Term Benefits Breakdown

Employees’ short-term benefits (wages and salaries) in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

	2024 No's	2023 No's
€60,000 - €69,999	39	29
€70,000 - €79,999	33	39
€80,000 - €89,999	31	23
€90,000 - €99,999	18	15
€100,000 - €109,999	6	4
€110,000 - €119,999	5	2
€120,000 - €129,999	-	1
€130,000 - €139,999	1	2
€140,000 - €149,999	-	-
€150,000 - €159,999	1	-

Note: For the purposes of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, overtime allowances and other payments made on behalf of the employee, but exclude employer’s PRSI and accrued holiday pay.

6. Vessel Operating Costs

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Personnel and Associated Costs	6,383	5,901
Fuel	2,186	2,208
Insurance	222	295
Victualling	287	292
Management Fee	306	294
Port Fees and Safety	173	103
Leases and Rental Storage	126	126
Engineering and Maintenance Costs	1,357	1,378
Operating and Administration Costs	1,032	881
	12,072	11,478

The vessel operating costs exclude the cost of vessel equipment and refits which are capitalised, per note 15, as they meet the criteria for recognition as property, plant and equipment. The vessels are owned by the Marine Institute and the operations of the vessels are subcontracted to a third party vessel management company.

7. Travelling Expenses

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Travel and Subsistence		
Domestic	662	600
Foreign	453	454
	1,115	1,054

An element of these expenses relate to funded projects, where the cost incurred will be reimbursed to the Marine Institute.

8. Grants and External Service Providers

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Marine Research Programme Grants and support costs (Note 12)	5,286	4,430
Seafarer Training & Education	136	125
Contractors, External Service Providers, Professional Fees and Other Research Funding*	24,828	7,538
Sample Analysis	452	589
	30,702	12,682

*This includes payments to partners where the Marine Institute is the lead partner in EU funded projects, payments relating to EMFF/EMFAF funded projects and payments to other contract providers for samples, scientific surveys, operations support, external survey contractors and other items required in order for the Marine Institute to fulfil its statutory mandate. The increase in the period is driven by payments to EU project partners where the Marine Institute is the lead partner and the related funding from the grantor is included in income.

9. Facilities Costs

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Maintenance	1,664	1,649
Light & Heat	501	779
Replacement Expenses	444	666
Other	210	230
	2,819	3,324

10. Other Administration and Equipment Hire Costs

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Rent, Rates & Other Property Costs	249	263
Journal Subscriptions, Memberships and Library Costs	334	220
Training	205	219
Stationery & Consumables	125	138
Publications, Promotional Materials and Design	376	426
Insurance	210	213
Audit fee	29	29
Hire of Equipment & Vessels	701	652
Sundry Equipment and repairs	317	625
Other Administration Costs	687	700
Reclassification of costs related to the Sale of the RV Celtic Voyager		(269)
	3,233	3,216

The provisions of the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 580 of 2012) apply to the Marine Institute. Interest and compensation paid during 2024 was €130 (2023 €175).

11. Taxation

The Marine Institute is specifically exempted from taxation under the provisions of Section 32 and Schedule 2 of the Finance Act 1994. Accordingly, no taxation charge has been included in the financial statements.

12. Marine Research Programme Payments – Capital Exchequer Funded

This is a memorandum note, the function of which is to show the application of the €15.4m capital funding received in 2024 (2023: €14.6m), as it was expended in support of National Marine Research & Innovation Strategies. The spend is categorised throughout the financial statements as described below.

The *National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021* was published in June 2017 and identified 15 research themes under the three goals of *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth*. This strategy also set the research priorities in 2023 and 2024 and aligns with the draft new national strategy for Marine Research, Knowledge & Innovation for the period 2025-2030, *Ocean Knowledge 2030*, which was disseminated in November 2024 and will be finalised in 2025.

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Oireachtas Income (Note 2)	15,400	14,600
Other Income or Co-funded Income	31	163
Total Income	15,431	14,763
<i>Expenditure on Marine Research Programme projects</i>		
Access to Shiptime Award	4,728	5,445
Marine Research Programme Grants (Note 8)	5,286	4,430
Marine Research Policy Support, Education and Outreach and Administration Payments	1,263	1,094
Capital, IT, Vessel, Vessel Refit and Oceanographic Equipment	4,152	3,793
Total Expenditure	15,429	14,762

Access to Shiptime Award: Access to the Institute’s research vessels is provided to Researchers, including to third parties such as Higher Education Institutions for research and education purposes, after an annual competitive call “Shiptime Award”. The €4,728,400 is the value of this “in kind” award to the successful applicants, who are not charged a monetary usage fee. The €4,728,400 is the estimated operating cost of the vessels, while in use by such applicants. This sum is part of the total vessel operations costs included in the income and expenditure account.

Marine Research Programme Grants: This includes payments linked to National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy for awards in strategically important areas of marine research. Research projects awarded are subject to contracts which specify that an initial payment will be made on signature of the contract; with interim payment(s) made subject to satisfactory performance and a final payment made on receipt of and verification of claims plus completion of project deliverables. These payments are included in “Grants and External Service Providers” in the Income and Expenditure account.

Marine Research Policy Support /Education and Outreach/ and Administration Payments: This includes the administration, auditor and evaluation costs of the Marine Research Programme, policy support to international research organisations and the cost of education and outreach programmes. These payments are included in various captions in the Income and Expenditure account.

Capital, IT, Vessel, Vessel Refit and Oceanographic Equipment: This includes capital equipment purchase, refit costs and IT costs. These costs, to the extent that they meet the definition of an asset under FRS 102, are capitalised in the statement of financial position.

Expenditure is charged in the financial statements as it is incurred/falls due in accordance with the Marine Research Programme accounting policy. At 31 December 2024 payments in the amount of €749,650 (2023: €468,004) were outstanding and are included within payables.

13. Marine Research Programme Future Capital Commitments

At the start of 2024 there were 96 projects ongoing. 52 new awards were made in 2024, and 34 awards were completed in 2024, leaving 114 projects ongoing at 31 December 2024.

Contractual commitments at 31 December 2024, which have not yet been charged to the financial statements are analysed as follows:

	Total €'000
Commitments as at 1 January 2024	14,707
Decommitments and Revisions 2024	(76)
New Commitments 2024 - Marine Research Programme Grants	10,712
Paid in 2024	(5,529)
Commitments as at 31 December 2024	19,814

14. Capital Account and Retained Capital Reserves

Capital Account	2024 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2023 €'000
Balance at 1 January		34,655		35,962
<i>Transfer (to) /from Statement of Income and Expenditure</i>				
Income (net) allocated for Capital funding	4,404		4,699	
Depreciation charge for the year	(6,112)		(6,048)	
Impact of Fixed Asset Register adjustment	(6)	(1,714)	-	(1,349)
Impact of disposals of property, plant and equipment		(4)		(61)
Charge to Revaluation reserve		144		103
Balance at 31 December		33,081		34,655

The aggregate balance of the Capital Account (€33.081m) and the Revaluation Reserve (€6.853m) equates to the Net Book Value of Property, Plant and Equipment of €39.934m at 31 December 2024.

15. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Land & Property and Leasehold Improvements	Research Vessels	Assets Under Construction	Vessel Equip	Equipment/ Fixtures & Fittings	Computers	Motor Vehicles	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Cost or Valuation								
Balance at 1 January 2024	9,541	55,500	575	7,001	30,518	8,601	443	112,179
Additions	11	998		569	2,263	425	138	4,404
Disposals	-		-	(12)	(703)	(115)		(830)
Fixed assets register adjustment		2	-	(28)	22	-	-	(4)
Transfer of assets	-	-	(575)	575			-	-
Balance at 31 December 2024	9,552	56,500	-	8,105	32,100	8,911	581	115,749
Depreciation								
Balance at 1 January 2024	-	27,870	-	6,543	27,956	7,719	439	70,527
Charge for the financial year	241	2,816	-	523	1,813	686	33	6,112
Disposal	-		-	(12)	(699)	(115)		(826)
Fixed assets register adjustment		13	-	(37)	34	(7)	(1)	2
Balance at 31 December 2024	241	30,699	-	7,017	29,104	8,283	471	75,815
Net Book Value								
At 31 December 2024	9,311	25,801	-	1,088	2,996	628	110	39,934
At 31 December 2023	9,541	27,630	575	458	2,562	882	4	41,652

The Marine Institute’s headquarters are at Rinville, Oranmore, County Galway. This building, which is owned by the OPW, is provided rent-free. The Institute owns land and buildings in Newport, Co Mayo and in Parkmore, Galway. All the land, and property owned by the Marine Institute were revalued upwards by €2.072m after a valuation by independent professional qualified valuers during 2023. The other various premises used by the Institute in Dublin and at the port locations around Ireland are held under either operating leases or rental agreements as set out in Note 20.

Depreciation was not recognised at 31 December 2023 in relation to €0.575m of assets which are under construction. These items which meet the definition of an asset but were not in use at 31 December 2023 had not commenced their useful lives for depreciation purposes at year end. During 2024, these items of €0.575m were transferred from assets under construction to relevant asset category and have been subject to depreciation during year ended 31st December 2024.

In accordance with the Institute’s policy, depreciation will commence, with a full year’s depreciation charged in the year in which the asset comes into use.

16. Revaluation Reserve

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Balance at 1 January	6,997	5,028
Movement/release in year	(144)	(103)
Revaluation Increase	-	2,072
Balance at 31 December	6,853	6,997

The land and property owned by the Marine Institute were revalued upwards by €2.072m after a valuation by independent professional qualified valuers during 2023.

17. Receivables

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Trade Receivables	335	195
Contract Income	431	801
Prepayments	471	480
	1,237	1,476

All receivables are due within one year and are stated net of any impairment in respect of doubtful debts.

18. Payables

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade Payables	2,871	4,258
Deferred Income	12,728	10,394
Proceeds from Asset Disposal due to the Exchequer	2,345	2,345
Marine Research Programme Accrual (Note 12)	750	468
Accruals	137	29
Payroll and Revenue Accruals	568	475
Holiday Pay Accrual (Note 5)	472	444
	19,871	18,413

As at 31 December 2024, the net proceeds arising on the disposal of the RV Celtic Voyager are included within the Marine Institute cash and cash equivalents and have been recorded within liabilities, as amounts due to the Exchequer, in line with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform sanction permitting the disposal of the vessel. In 2024, the Institute sought clarification and approval for retention of the net proceeds for reinvestment in solar and climate related projects. Should approval be received for this alternate treatment of the funds, the impact of same will be recorded in the 2025 financial statements. Absent approval for such alternate treatment, the net proceeds shall be returned to the Exchequer and the liability to the Exchequer cleared in 2025.

Included in payables and in payroll and revenue accruals above are the following amounts due to the Revenue Commissioners:

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Professional Service Withholding Tax	212	198
PAYE/PRSI/USC	559	472
VAT	241	432
Relevant Contract Tax	1	6
	1,013	1,108

19. Superannuation Scheme and Spouse & Children’s Contributory Retirement Benefits Scheme

a. General Description of the Scheme

The Marine Institute is a statutory State agency, established under section 3(1) of the Marine Institute Act, 1991 (No. 2 of 1991). Section 9(1) of the Act provides that the Institute shall make schemes for the granting of superannuation benefits to and in respect of staff members, subject to Ministerial approval. Two such approved schemes – the Marine Institute Staff Superannuation Scheme 1998 and the Marine Institute Spouses’ and Children’s Contributory Pension Scheme 1998 are being operated by the Institute. The former scheme provides retirement benefits (lump sum and pension) to staff members and death gratuity benefits in respect of death in service. The latter scheme provides pension benefits for the surviving spouses and dependent children of deceased members. Normal retirement age is a member’s 65th birthday. Both schemes are defined benefit superannuation schemes. Staff Superannuation contributions are paid to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme) is the defined benefit pension scheme for pensionable public servants appointed for the first time on or after 1 January 2013 in accordance with the Public Service Pension (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012. The scheme provides for a pension and retirement lump sum based on career-average pensionable remuneration, and spouses’ and children’s pensions. The minimum pension age is 66 years (rising in line with State pension age changes). It includes an actuarially reduced early retirement facility from age 55. Pensions in payment increase in line with the consumer price index.

For the purposes of reporting in accordance with FRS 102, the Institute has been advised by a qualified actuary who has prepared a full valuation in order to assess the liabilities of the superannuation schemes at 31 December 2024.

The principal actuarial assumptions which are based on professional actuarial advice, per annum, are as follows:

	2024	2023	2022
Inflation rate increase	2.10%	2.40%	2.60%
Salary rate increase	3.10%	3.40%	3.60%
Pension rate increase	2.60%	2.90%	3.10%
Scheme liabilities discount rate	3.65%	3.65%	4.25%

As pension increases under the Marine Institute schemes are based on salary increases rather than on price increases, a price inflation assumption is not necessary for the purposes of this valuation. However, since FRS 102 requires reference to an assumed rate of inflation, the above rate would be appropriate for this purpose.

The average remaining future life expectancy according to the mortality tables used to determine pension liabilities, is as follows:

	2024	2023
Male aged 65	22.5	22.7
Female aged 65	24.3	24.4

On the basis of these and other assumptions and applying the projected unit method prescribed in FRS 102, the deferred funding asset and retirement benefits liability are as follows:

	2024	2023
Total accrued retirement benefits liability	€70.04m	€68.69m

b. Analysis of the Total Pension Costs charged to Expenditure

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Current Service Cost	3,015	2,827
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	2,495	2,586
Employee Contributions	(741)	(702)
	4,769	4,711

c. Analysis of the amount recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Experience Gains	929	339
Changes in actuarial assumptions underlying the present value of scheme	(4,416)	2,525
Actuarial (loss)/gain recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income	(3,487)	2,864

d. Net Deferred Funding for Pensions Recognised in the year

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Current Service and Interest Cost	5,510	5,413
Less benefits paid in the year	(673)	(864)
	4,837	4,549

The Marine Institute recognises amounts owing from the State as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation scheme and the policy and practice in relation to funding public service pensions, including contributions from employees and the annual estimates process. In common with the generality of public service superannuation schemes, no separate fund is maintained, or assets held, to finance the payment of pensions and gratuities.

In line with the custom and practice as adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to date, the Marine Institute has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice. The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2024 amounted to €70.04 million (2023: €68.69 million). The quantification of the liability is based on the financial assumptions set out in this note.

e. Analysis of movement in net pension liability during the year

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Liability at the beginning of the year	68,691	61,278	97,605	88,810	74,341
Current Service Cost	3,015	2,827	5,079	4,721	4,066
Interest on Scheme Liabilities	2,495	2,586	1,217	708	889
Actuarial (Gain)/Loss recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income	(3,487)	2,864	(42,073)	3,796	9,946
Benefits paid in the year	(673)	(864)	(550)	(430)	(432)
Liability at the end of the year	70,041	68,691	61,278	97,605	88,810

f. History of Defined Benefit Obligations

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Deficit benefit obligations	70,041	68,691	61,278	97,605	88,810
Experience Gains/(Losses) on Scheme Liabilities	929	339	(4,065)	1,515	(1,124)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	1.32%	0.49%	6.6%	1.5%	1.3%
Assumption Gains/(Losses) on Scheme Liabilities	(4,416)	2,525	(46,138)	(5,311)	(8,822)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	6.30%	3.67%	75.3%	5.44%	9.93%

The cumulative actuarial gain recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income amounts to €11,200,000.

20. Operating Lease commitments

The Marine Institute occupies leased premises at the following locations as 31 December 2024:

- **Lease 1:** 3 Park Place, Dublin 2, commenced in June 2019 for a period of 25 years and is due to terminate on 31 October 2044
- **Lease 2:** Site Lease, Galway Harbour, commenced in 2024 for a period of 10 years. Rent review year six.
- **Lease 3:** Industrial Land, Galway Technology Park, commenced in 1988 for a period of 999 years, with five yearly rent reviews
- **Lease 4:** Laboratory Space in Greencastle for five years with effect from 1 June 2020, plus option to extend for an additional three years.
- **Lease 5:** Foreshore lease in Spiddal, granted for 35 years with effect from 15 December 2017

The Marine Institute also occupies the following premises where the leases have expired as at 31 December 2024. New leases or rental arrangements have or are being agreed but non-cancellable operating leases are not in place as at 31 December 2024.

Location 1: Parkmore Office Park, Galway

Location 2: Laboratory Space in Castletownbere

The Institute also has a number of short term rental agreements relating to piers, laboratory and sheds. The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, all of which relate to Land & Buildings, are as follows:

	2024	2023
Relating to leases:	€'000	€'000
Payable within 1 year	272	139
Payable between 2 and 5 years	1,071	516
Payable thereafter	2,350	1,917
	3,693	2,572

Operating lease and rental payments recognised as an expense in 2024 amounted to €319,515 (2023: €288,748).

21. Related Party Transactions

Ms Charlotte O’Kelly, member of the Marine Institute Board, is a controlling party and Board member of Techworks Marine Limited, a supplier to the Marine Institute. Purchases (ex VAT) from Techworks Marine Limited amounted to €67,318 in 2024 and €134,030 in 2023. All transactions were conducted on an arms-length basis following the Institute’s normal procurement procedures, in compliance with public procurement regulations.

22. Register of interests

The Institute has adopted procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform in relation to the disclosure of interests by the Board and the Institute has adhered to these procedures. Except for the transactions with Techworks Marine Limited disclosed in note 21, there were no transactions in the year in relation to the Institute’s activities in which members of the Board had a beneficial interest.

23. Events after the end of the financial year

The Board is not aware of any events occurring after 31 December 2024 which affect these financial statements.

24. Board Approval

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 24 June 2025.



Marine Institute Headquarters

Rinville, Oranmore
Co. Galway,
H91 R673

Tel: +353 91 387 200

Email: institute.mail@marine.ie

Marine Institute Dublin

Three Park Place,
Upper Hatch Street,
Dublin 2. D02 FX65

Tel: +353 1 7753 900

Email: institute.mail@marine.ie

Marine Institute Catchment Research Facility

Furnace,
Newport, Co. Mayo.
F28 PF65

Tel: +353 98 42300

Email: institute.mail@marine.ie

 [marineinstituteireland](https://www.facebook.com/marineinstituteireland)

 [marine-institute](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-institute)

 [@MarineInst](https://twitter.com/MarineInst)

 [@marineinstituteireland](https://www.instagram.com/marineinstituteireland)

www.marine.ie



TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2024

www.marine.ie

 *Foras na Mara*
Marine Institute

CÉ MUIDNE

Ár bhFís

Tugann Foras na Mara ceannaireacht maidir le heolas aigéin a théann chun sochair daoine, beartais agus phláinéid ar an mbonn náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta.

Ár Misean

Cuireann Foras na Mara seirbhísí taighde agus forbartha eolaíochta ar fáil don rialtas, do ghníomhaireachtaí, don tionscal agus don tsochaí is seirbhísí a thacaíonn le húsáid ár gceantar muirí, le cosaint agus le hathchóiriú éiceachórais mhuirí, agus a chuireann comhthuiscint ar an aigéan chun cinn.

Ár Luachanna

Tá na luachanna seo mar bhonn ar a bhfuil ár gcultúr bunaithe. Trí mhaireachtáil de réir na luachanna seo, trí iad a chur i bhfeidhm, agus trí iad a fhiú isteach i ngach gné den obair a dhéanaimid, déantar ár ndaoine a spreagadh chun sármhaitheas a bhaint amach.



Tiomantas



Barr-Fheabhas



Comhoibriú



Ionracas



Nuálaíocht

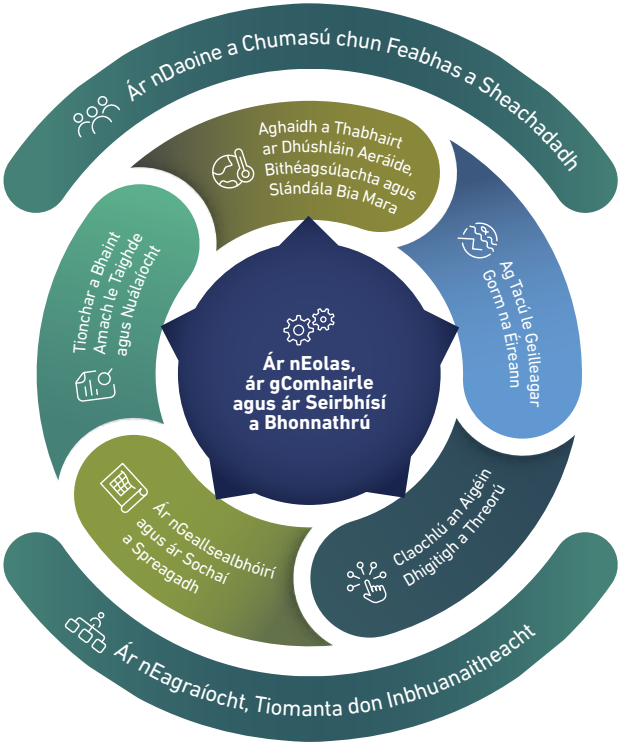


Meas

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha Fhoras na Mara, 2023-2027

Tá ocht dTosaíocht Straitéiseacha againn, atá leagtha amach don tréimhse 2023-2027 inár straitéis chorparáideach, *Eolas Aigéin is Údar Faisnéise agus Spreagtha*. Tógann ár straitéis ar bhonn acmhainní Fhoras na Mara trí infheistíocht agus maoiniú náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta a ghíaráil, agus ar an teist seanbhunaithe againn ó thaobh ceannaireachta agus tionchair a bheith againn i ndáil le príomhlíonraí agus i bhfóraim náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta.

I gcomhréir leis an straitéis chorparáideach, cuirtear an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil seo i láthair de réir na n-ocht dTosaíocht Straitéiseacha:



CLÁR ÁBHAR

Fáilte ón bPOF	1
Ráiteas ón mBord	3
Léirmheas ar an mBliain i bhForas na Mara	5
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 1 – Ár nEolas, ár gComhairle agus ár Seirbhísí a Bhonnathrú	7
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 2 – Aghaidh a Thabhairt ar Dhúshláin Aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Slándála Bia Mara	23
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 3 – Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht	37
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 4 – Claochlú an Aigéin Dhigitigh a Threorú	49
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 5 – Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann	58
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 6 – Ár nDaoine a Chumasú chun Feabhas a Sheachadadh	70
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 7 – Ár nEagraíocht, Tiomanta don Inbhuanaitheacht	77
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 8 – Ár nGeallsealbhóirí agus ár Sochaí a Spreagadh	81
Rialachas Corparáideach	89
Ráitis Airgeadais	106
Tuarascáil an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste	107
Ráiteas Rialachais agus Tuarascáil Chomhaltaí an Bhoird	109
Ráiteas maidir le Rialú Inmheánach	115
Ráiteas ar an gCuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais agus Cúlchistí Ioncaim Coimeádta	120
Ráiteas ar Ioncam Cuimsitheach	121
Ráiteas ar Staid an Airgeadais	122
Ráiteas ar Shreafaí Airgid	123
Nótaí a ghabhann leis na Ráitis Airgeadais	124

Fáilte ón bPOF

Tá bród orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2024 Fhoras na Mara a chur i láthair, foilseachán a léiríonn éachtaí suntasacha ár n-eagraíochta le bliain anuas. Léiríonn an tuarascáil seo fairsinge urghnách ár gcuid oibre, ag taispeáint an chaoi a n-aistríonn dúthracht, saineolas agus nuálaíocht ár bhfoirne go tionchair bhríocha ar fud na hÉireann agus níos faide i gcéin.

Tá tiomáint an athraithe dearfach agus tionchar a sheachadadh ag croílár ár ngníomhaíochtaí uile ag Foras na Mara. Trí thuairisciú a dhéanamh orthu go bliantúil tá sé mar aidhm againn a thaispeáint conas a sheachadann ár gcuid oibre tairbhí inláimhsithe dár bpáirtithe leasmhara, agus ár gcuntasacht a léiriú do na tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha a threoraíonn sinn. Leagann an tuarascáil seo béim ar rogha rathúlachta agus ar chás-staidéir láidre ó gach ceann dár n-ocht dTosaíocht Straitéiseach.

Níl sna cás-staidéir a cuireadh san áireamh i mbliana ach léargas ar leithead agus doimhneacht dochreidte na hoibre a rinne an Institiúid. Agus muid ag machnamh ar an mbliain seo caite, táim thar a bheith bródúil as tiomantas na hInstitiúide don nuálaíocht agus don cheannaireacht, ag tiomáint torthaí bunathraithe laistigh dár n-eagraíocht, dár bpáirtithe leasmhara agus dár líonraí, agus don chomhshaol.

Agus an tuarascáil seo á iniúchadh agat, gheobhaidh tú amach go bhfuil comhoibriú – ar fud an Rialtais agus go hidirnáisiúnta araon – ina bhunchloch dár gcur chuige. Leanann Foras na Mara ag cur tacaíochtaí rithábhachtacha ar fáil d'obair na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara (DAFM). Tá ról rithábhachtach ag Foras na Mara maidir le hanailísí eolaíocha ceannródaíocha, comhairle shaineolach, agus saineolas a sholáthar do chinnteoirí, geallsealbhóirí, agus an tsochaí ar bhealaí atá inrochtana agus inghníomhaithe araon.

Go háirithe, tacaíonn ár dtaighde iontaofa, ár gcomhairle agus ár seirbhísí le cur chun feidhme príomhthreoracha agus beartais náisiúnta agus AE, atá rithábhachtach chun geilleagar aigéin inbhuanaithe a thógáil agus chun ár n-éiceachórais mhuirí a chosaint.

In 2024, bhain obair Fhoras na Mara le comhpháirtíochtaí suntasacha le tionscal, le heagraíochtaí taighde, agus le hinstiúidí tríú leibhéal in Éirinn, agus ar fud an domhain freisin. Leanadh leis na comhoibrithe idirnáisiúnta seo ag fás ó thaobh scála agus tionchair de, agus táimid bródúil as ceannaireacht ár bhfoirne i gcoistí agus líonraí ardphróifíle eolaíocht aigéin.

Maidir leis an bpáirt atá glactha againn i gcomhpháirtíochtaí idirnáisiúnta cuireann sí le bonn eolais agus cáil dhomhanda na an Fhorais, téann sí chun sochair an phobail idirnáisiúnta, agus bíonn tionchar dearfach aici freisin ar fhorbairt ghairmiúil agus phearsanta ár bhfoirne.

Go deimhin, ní bheadh aon cheann de na héachtaí atá leagtha amach sa tuarascáil seo indéanta gan díograis agus saineolas fhoireann Fhoras na Mara. Tá an paisean, an nuálaíocht agus an athléimneacht leanúnach atá léirithe acu rithábhachtach chun ár bhfís a bhaint amach maidir le bheith mar cheannaire domhanda i ndáil le heolas aigéin, ag tabhairt cumhachta d'Éirinn agus dá muintir saibhreas ár n-aigéin a chosaint agus leas a bhaint as. Gabhaim buíochas ó chroí lenár bhfoireann as an obair iontach a rinne siad, ar obair í a sheachadtar go minic i gcomhthéacs athruithe gasta agus dúshlán chasta.



Gabhaim buíochas freisin le Bord Fhoras na Mara as an dianmhaoirseacht a dhéanann siad agus as a dtiomantas do na caighdeáin is airde rialachais chorparáidigh. Mar fhocal scoir, ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil lenár gcomhpháirtithe, agus lenár geallsealbhóirí agus comhoibritheoirí go léir as a dtacaíocht fhíorluachmhar i rith na bliana. Táimid ag tnúth lenár n-éachtaí agus lenár dtionchar a fheabhsú a leathnú in 2025, le do chomhpháirtíocht agus tacaíocht leanúnach.

Rick O'Keefe

An Dr Rick Oifigeach,
Príomhfheidhmeannach Fhoras na Mara



Ráiteas ón mBord

Don Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara.

De réir cheanglais Acht Fhoras na Mara, 1991, is mór an onóir dom Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus Ráitis Airgeadais Fhoras na Mara don bhliain dar críoch 31 Nollaig 2024 a thíolacadh.

Sa Tuarascáil Bhliantúil seo don bhliain 2024 cuirítear i láthair buaicphointí na bliana inár bhain Foras na Mara an-chuid amach, agus raon leathan cás-staidéar lena léirítear an obair éagsúil atá idir lámha ar fud na heagraíochta agus an tionchar a bhí ag an obair sin ar ár bpáirtithe leasmhara, líonraí agus an comhshaol.

Cuireadh na cás-staidéir leis an bhfoilseachán bliantúil mar bhealach éifeachtach chun fairsinge, tionchar agus raon feidhme ár n-eagraíochta a léiriú, agus an chaoi ina seachtadhar lenár gcuid oibre na hocht dtosaíocht straitéiseacha inár Straitéis Chorparáideach cúig bliana, *EOLAS FAOIN AIGÉAN A MHÚSCLAÍONN FEASACHT AGUS A SPREAGANN FIOSRACHT*

Is léir ón tuarascáil seo freisin go leanann Foras na Mara, bliain i ndiaidh bliana, de nuíl a dhéanamh, de cheannaireacht a sholáthar. agus de chur lena tionchar go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta. Ón uair a bunaíodh í, thug an Foras aghaidh ar an dúshlán maidir le comhpháirtíochtaí láidre a bhunú, agus réimse leathan tionscadal eolaíochta náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta a threorú agus páirt a ghlacadh iontu. Táimid ag tnúth le leanúint den chomhar sin agus comhar nua a chruthú sna blianta amach romhainn.

Tugtar sonraí freisin sa Tuarascáil Bhliantúil seo faoinár Rialachas Corparáideach agus faoinár Ráitis Rialachais Chorparáidigh agus ár Ráitis Airgeadais don bhliain 2024. Tá dea-chleachtas rialachas corparáideach agus bainistíocht airgeadais mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag oibríochtaí uile Fhoras na Mara, agus coinníonn sé na Caighdeáin Rialachais is airde.

Sa bhliain 2024, ábhar bróid Foras na Mara bródúil as deimhniú 'Scothsheirbhís ó Scothfhostaithe' faoi Chaighdeán ETP 1000:2017 de chuid an Údaráis um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann (NSAI) a bheith bainte amach aige don 20ú bliain as a chéile, agus deimhniú Platanam aige le linn 2024. Léiríonn sé seo an chaoi a bhfuil meas ag an eagraíocht ar a foireann, ar an gcaoi a gcomhoibríonn foirne agus ar an tionchar dearfach a bhaintear amach trí dhíriú ar ár ndaoine agus ar ár rath comhchoiteann.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil leis an bPríomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, an Dr. Rick Officer, agus le foireann Fhoras na Mara as a dtiomantas don fheabhas agus don chomhoibriú a chabhraigh linn gach rud a fheiceann tú a chur i láthair sa Tuarascáil Bhliantúil seo do 2024 a bhaint amach.

Bord Fhoras na Mara



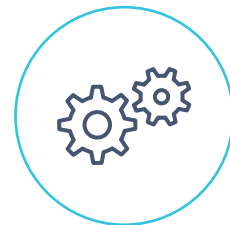
Bliain i Saol Fhoras na Mara

Féach Leathanach 88 le haghaidh creidmheasanna grianghraf.



Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 1

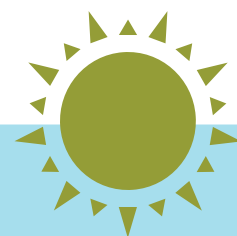
Ár nEolas, ár gComhairle agus ár Seirbhísí a Bhonnathrú



Tá ról tábhachtach ag Foras na Mara maidir le hanailísí a sholáthar ar eolaíocht chasta, chomh maith le comhairle agus saineolas do chinnteoirí, geallsealbhóirí, agus an tsochaí ar bhealach inrochtana agus intuigthe.

Leis an gcomhairle eolaíochta agus an soláthar seirbhíse a chuirimid ar fáil clúdaítear thar raon leathan réimsí, lena n-áirítear iascach inbhuanaithe, sábháilteacht bia mara, monatóireacht comhshaoil, pleanáil spásúlachta mara, fuinneamh in-athnuaite amach ón gcósta, dobharshaothrú, anailís shocheacnamaíoch, monatóireacht ar athrú aeráide, taighde a thacaíonn le hoiriúnú agus maolú aeráide, agus forbairt inbhuanaithe na dtionscal mara agus muirí (Geilleagar Gorm na hÉireann).

Leanann an Foras barr feabhais a bhaint amach ó thaobh seachadadh taighde iontaofa, comhairle agus seirbhísí d'fhonn freastal a dhéanamh ar riachtanais an Stáit, ag tacú le cur i bhfeidhm na dtreoracha náisiúnta agus an AE agus réimsí beartais.



PRÍOMH-BHUAICPHOINTÍ 2024:

Sábháilteacht Bia a Chinntiú trí Chlár Sábháilteachta Bia Mara Fhoras na Mara

Leis an tsraith chuimsitheach Chlár Monatóireachta Sábháilteachta Sliogéisc ag an Fhoras, rinneadh diananailís ar shamplaí sliogéisc in 2024 le haghaidh biotocsainí mara, baictéir tháscaire faecach, víris daonna díobhálacha, fíteaplanctón agus speicis dhíobhálacha bláis algaigh, agus ábhar salaithe ceimiceach. Ina theannta sin, lean an Foras lena chlár monatóireachta ar iarmhair cheimiceacha in éisc eite don earnáil dobharshaothraithe in 2024, ar clár é arna fhaomhadh ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach agus atá ina chomhpháirt thábhachtach de rialuithe sábháilteachta bia na Roinne Bia, Talmhaíochta agus Mara. Leis an gcreidiúnú ISO 17025 sna saotharlanna déantar cáilíocht ár dtástáil sna cláir mhonatóireachta seo a bhuntacú agus a chinntiú. Chuir an fhoireann micribhitheolaíochta sliogéisc tástáil noraivíris ar fáil do 20 táirgeoir oisrí éagsúla le linn 2024, ag cinntiú rochtain ar mhargaí onnmhairithe agus comhlíonadh na gcaighdeán sábháilteachta is airde. Leis na seirbhísí ríthábhachtacha seo déantar na leibhéil is airde sábháilteachta bia agus comhlíonadh na gceanglas reachtaíochta a chinntiú, agus tacaíonn siad le fás agus cáil dhomhanda earnáil dobharshaothraithe na hÉireann.



Roisin Latham agus Bolaji Ojofeitimi.



Ceannaireacht ar Iascach agus ar Chomhairle Éiceachórais go hIdirnáisiúnta

Tá baint ag an Fhoras, trínár Seirbhísí Comhairliúcháin agus Éiceachórais Iascaigh (FEAS), le táirgeadh idirnáisiúnta comhairle iascaigh agus éiceachórais, agus glacann an Foras ceannaireacht ina leith sin.

Déantar é seo go príomha trí dhá eagraíocht, an Coiste Comhairleach Comhairle Idirnáisiúnta um Thaiscéalaíocht na Mara (ICES) agus an Coiste Eolaíoch, Teicniúil agus Eacnamaíoch um Iascach (STECF). Déanann roinnt duine de bhaill foirne FEAS cathaoirleacht ar shainghrúpaí oibre atá ailínithe go straitéiseach le cláir náisiúnta agus leasanna acmhainní. Ar an leibhéal náisiúnta, cuireann FEAS an saineolas ar fáil ní amháin i ndáil le comhairle bhainistíochta iascaigh, ach i ndáil le hanailís éiceolaíochta agus spáis freisin. Leis na sonraí seo, soláthraítear comhairle ar thionchair a thacaíonn le príomhbheartais arna mbainistiú ag an leibhéal náisiúnta (amhail an Chreat-Treoir um Straitéis Mhuirí agus an reachtaíocht um Limistéir Chosanta Mhuirí).

Sheachaid Foras na Mara an *Stocleabhar 2024* don Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, a sholáthraíonn an chomhairle eolaíoch neamhchlaonta is déanaí don Rialtas maidir le stádas 74 stoc éisc is díol spéise d'Éirinn. Is treoir luachmhar tagartha é an foilseachán d'fhoireann an Aire d'oifigigh na Roinne, don tionscal iascaireachta, d'eolaithe mara, d'eagraíochtaí neamhrialtasacha comhshaoil agus d'institiúidí trú leibhéal. Cuireadh an fhaisnéis choibhéiseach do stoic sliogéisc i láthair san *Athbhreithniú ar Stoic Sliogéisc agus Iascaigh*.



An Dr Rick Officer, Príomhfheidhmeannach Fhoras na Mara, ag bronnadh Leabhar Stoc 2024 ar Sinéad McSherry, An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Aghaidh a thabhairt ar Rioscaí Aeráide leis an gcéad Mheasúnú Náisiúnta Riosca ar Athrú Aeráide

Ghlac Foras na Mara leis an gcéad Mheasúnú Riosca Náisiúnta ar an Athrú Aeráide in Éirinn ar measúnú é ina sainithnítear príomhrioscaí aeráide d'earnálacha éagsúla an gheilleagair lena n-áirítear an bia mara.

I ndoiciméad treorach cuimsitheach, atá le seachadadh in 2025, soláthrófar léargais mar bhonn eolais do phleananna oiriúnaithe.

Measúnuithe ar an gCreat-Treoir um Straitéis Mhuirí a Sheachadadh

In 2024, chríochnaigh Foras na Mara measúnuithe rithabhachtacha ar oibleagáidí na hÉireann faoi Chreat-Treoir Straitéise Muirí an AE (MSFD). Rinneadh measúnuithe ar sheachghabháil speiceas muirí atá i mbaol, bithéagsúlacht éisc, iasc tráchtála agus sliogéisc, eangaí bia mara, ábhair shalaithe sa bhia mara, eotrófú (saibhriú cothaitheach), aigéadú aigéin, agus tionchair ar ghrinneall na farraige.

Leis an obair sin uile déantar cinnte go gcloíonn Éire le spriocanna comhshaoil an AE, ag tacú le caomhnú agus inbhuanaitheacht na mara. Rinneadh an obair seo mar chuid den Chomhaontú Seirbhíse (SLA) idir an Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil (DHLGH), an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara (DAFM), agus Foras na Mara.

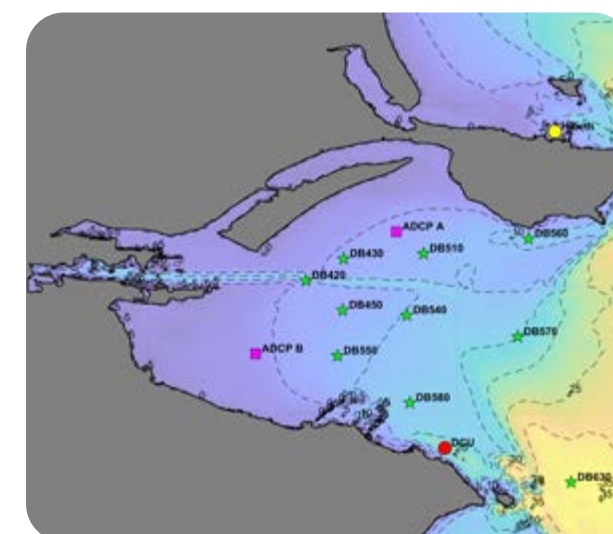
Mapáil Ghrinneall na Farraige a Mhéadú le haghaidh Bainistíocht Inbhuanaithe Acmhainní

Leathnaigh Ardseirbhísí Mapála Fhoras na Mara (AMS) clúdach mapála ghrinneall na farraige na hÉireann, trí 5,174 km² de shonraí suirbhé bataiméadrach mionsonraithe amach ó chósta na hÉireann a fháil, ar bord an *RV Tom Crean*. Is ionann sin agus limistéar atá níos mó ná Contae Dhún na nGall.

Soláthraíonn an léarscáiliú leathnaithe seo ar ghrinneall na farraige, a sheachadtar tríd an gclár úrscothach INFOMAR atá á chomhbhainistiú ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, i gcomhar lenár gcomhpháirtithe Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Éireann, léarscáileanna bunlíne rithabhachtacha a mhéadaíonn ár dtuiscint ar éiceachórais mhuirí agus a thacaíonn le pleanáil spásúlachta mara agus le cinnteoireacht maidir le bainistiú inbhuanaithe acmhainní muirí.

Samhaltú Ardtaifigh a Fhorbairt do Chuan Bhaile Átha Cliath

D'fhorbair an fhoireann um shamhaltú aigéin samhail ardtaifigh de Chuan Bhaile Átha Cliath, ina gcomhtháthaítear sonraí ó INFOMAR, Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí (OPW), Oifig Hidreagrafach na Ríochta Aontaithe (UKHO) agus íomhánna satailíte. Tacaíonn an tsamhail cheannródaíoch seo le geallsealbhoirí rithabhachtacha lena n-áirítear An Garda Síochána, Garda Cóstá na hÉireann, Institiúid Ríoga na mBád Tarrthála (RNLI) agus an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA), trí chumais fheabhsaithe réamhaisnéise agus práinnfhreagartha a chumasú.



Tacú le Tionscal Muirí na hÉireann trí Chomhairle Bunaithe ar Fhianaise a chur ar fáil

Chuir Foras na Mara, trí Oifig Forbartha Muirí na hÉireann (IMDO), nuashonruithe agus comhairle bheartais ar fáil don Roinn Iompair maidir le hiompar lasta muirí, toilleadh na gcalafort, seirbhísí loingseoireachta agus tionscail choimhdeacha.

Ullmhaíodh tuarascálacha ráithiúla ina ndéantar treochtaí loingseoireachta a rianú don bhliain 2024, agus foilsíodh an Irish Maritime Transport Economist (IMTE) freisin, a sholáthair anailís dhomhain ar threochtaí tionscail 2023. Bhí fócas láidir i gcónaí ag ról comhairleach an IMDO don Roinn in 2024 i leith forbairt thionscal muirí tábhachtach straitéiseach na hÉireann agus ó thaobh an bealach is fearr is féidir leis freastal ar riachtanais na n-earnálacha atá ag teacht chun cinn amhail Fuinneamh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta agus Breoslaí Malartacha.

An bunús eolaíoch do bhainistiú agus inbhuanaitheacht fhadtéarmach iascach torcéisc na hÉireann a fheabhsú

In 2024, rinne foireann Sheirbhísí Comhairleacha um Éiceachórais Iascaigh Fhoras na Mara (FEAS) athbhreithniú iomlán ar na sonraí go léir a bhí ar fáil agus na modhanna bailithe sonraí don mheasúnú ar stoc torcéisc. Rinneadh é sin mar chuid de nós imeachta tagarmharcála measúnaithe piar-athbhreithnithe de chuid na Comhairle Idirnáisiúnta um Thaiscéalaíocht na bhFarraigí (ICES).



D'fhorbair foireann FEAS modh measúnaithe nua, a mbeidh torthaí dearfacha aige maidir le bainistiú agus inbhuanaitheacht fhadtéarmach iascach torcéisc na hÉireann.

De ghnáth maireann torcéisc, a bhfuil cuma dhearg agus airgid orthu, ag doimhneachtaí 40-600 méadar i ngróga móra. Is éisc bheaga iad – go hiondúil níl ach 10-15 ceintiméadar ar fad acu. Go dtí seo, is mar mhin éisc is mó a úsáideadh iad ach is mó an tsuim atá ann sa speiceas le déanaí mar fhoinsé de chomhdhúile bithghníomhacha tairbhiúla agus freisin mar bhia don duine.

I lár na 2000idí, bunaíodh iascach spriocdhírthe do thorcéisc san Atlantach Thoir Thuaidh, go príomha ag tionscal peiligeach na hÉireann. Ar dtús, ní raibh an t-iascach rialaithe agus tháinig méadú tapa ar an líon gabhálacha go dtí gur tugadh isteach bainistíocht bunaithe ar an nGabháil Iomlán is Incheadaithe (TAC) in 2011. Is í Éire an príomh-scairshealbhóir cuóta le 70% den chuóta iomlán.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:

1. Ár nEolas, Ár gComhairle agus ár Seirbhísí a Athrú ó Bhonn
2. Dúshláin aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Slándála a chomhlíonadh
5. Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann



Ó 2012 i leith, tá comhairle eolaíoch maidir leis an ghabháil bhliantúil torcéisc curtha ar fáil ag ICES. Mar thoradh ar chomhoibriú dlúth idir Foras na Mara agus tionscal peiligeach na hÉireann bunaíodh suirbhé fuaimiúil, clár samplála gabhála, agus forbraíodh an bonn eolais bith-eolaíoch atá riachtanach chun tacú le measúnú stoic.

Cuireadh srian ar an modh measúnaithe stoic tosaigh le haghaidh torcéisc, go príomha mar gheall ar theorainneacha sonraí agus gan ach cúpla bliain de shonraí suirbhé ar fáil. Bhí an measúnú ag brath go mór ar an suirbhé fuaimiúil agus chuimsigh sé roinnt toimhdí maidir le dinimic iompar an stoic.

Leis an gcur chuige seo bhí gá le réamhchúram breise sa chomhairle ar ghabhálacha, chun a áirithiú go bhfanadh méid an stoic ag leibhéal inbhuanaithe.

Le blianta beaga anuas, tá comharthaí ann go bhfuil méadú láidir tagtha ar mhéid an stoic torcéisc – níor cheadaigh an creat do sholáthar comhairle ach méaduithe beaga ar dheiseanna iascaireachta do chabhlach na hÉireann, áfach. Chun an toradh inbhuanaithe atá ar fáil a uasmhéadú, bhí modh measúnaithe níos freagraí agus níos mionsonraithe, ar modh é lena mbeifí in ann athruithe tapa ar mhéid an stoic a rianú.

D'aithin agus d'imscrúdaigh an obair a rinne FEAS foinsí nua sonraí, rud a d'fhág gur forbraíodh an modh measúnaithe nua do thorcéisc. Ghlac ICES leis an modh mar bhonn le soláthar comhairle don stoc torcéisc ó 2025 ar aghaidh.



Cén tionchar a bheidh ag an modh measúnaithe nua?

Is feabhas suntasach é an modh nua i gcoinne an modh a bhí ann roimhe seo toisc go mbaineann sé lánúsáid as na sonraí atá ar fáil, go bhfuil sé níos láidre, agus go soláthraíonn sé modh níos cruinne chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar stádas an stoic agus chun comhairle ghabhála a sholáthar.

Déanann ICES an modh measúnaithe nua a aicmiú mar is iomchuí chun comhairle a sholáthar a fhreagraíonn don Uastáirgeacht Inbhuanaithe, agus an stoc a choinneáil laistigh de theorainneacha bitheolaíocha sábháilte – i gcomhréir le haidhmeanna Chomhbheartas Iascaigh an AE.

Leis an modh nuashonraithe cuirtear cumas feabhsaithe ar fáil chun freagairt d'arduithe le déanaí ar mhéid an stoic torcéisc agus tá méadú 40% ar an ngabháil mholta do 2025 mar thoradh air, ag cinntiú go bhfanann an stoc i riocht sláintiúil.

Is deis thábhachtach é an méadú seo d'earnáil pheiligeach na hÉireann a bhí lánach i mbunú an iascaigh agus an bhailiúcháin sonraí agus an bhunachar faisnéise ar a bhfuil an measúnú bunaithe.

Le blianta beaga anuas, b'fhiú thart ar €5 milliún an t-iascach torcéisc. Is ionann an cuóta méadaithe do 2025 agus méadú suntasach ar ioncam i ndáil le hearnáil a bhfuil tionchar ag laghdúithe ar chuóta speiceas eile uirthi. Léirítear sa mheasúnú go bhfuil méid an stoic gar d'uastearainn stairiúil faoi láthair.

Ba cheart go gcinnteodh bailiú sonraí leanúnach mar thaca le measúnú stoic Fhoras na Mara, mar aon le saotharlanna náisiúnta iascaigh agus comhoibriú leis an tionscal, feabhas leanúnach ar cháilíocht na comhairle ar ghabhálacha.

“

Ó rinneadh ceannródaíocht i ndáil leis an iascach torcéisc in 2010, agus iad ag obair go dlúth le Foras na Mara, tá baill d'Eagraíocht Iascairí na gCealla Beaga (KFO) tar éis maoiniú, eagrú agus rannchuidiú le staidéir bhitheolaíocha agus suirbhéanna fuaimiúla chun an t-eolas ar an speiceas seo a fheabhsú. Chuir an Foras na sonraí seo le próiseas measúnaithe stoc tagarmharcála ICES, rud a chuir ar chumas ICES comhairle láidir ar ghabhálacha a sholáthar do thorcéisc, as ar eascair measúnú anailíse iomlán (Catagóir 1 ICES) a chuir ICES ar fáil in 2024. Úsáidfear an measúnú stoic nua chun comhairle bhliantúil ar ghabháil a sholáthar bunaithe ar thomhas réalaióch ar bhithmhais agus ar tháirgiúlacht an torcéisc seachas a bheith bunaithe go mór ar ghabhálacha a rinneadh le déanaí mar a bhí roimhe seo (Catagóir ICES 3). Féachann an KFO air seo mar fhianaise shoiléir gur féidir le comhoibriú láidir tionscail-eolaíocht agus le cur chuige eolaíocht-bhunaithe a ghlacadh chun iascach nua a fhorbairt toradh an-dearfach a thabhairt.

”

Dominic Rihan, Príomhfheidhmeannach Eagraíocht Iascairí na gCealla Beaga

CÁS-STAIDÉAR

An tAonad um Shláinte Éisc: Stádas sláinte ainmhithe uisceacha na hÉireann a chosaint agus trádáil ainmhithe dobharshaothraithe a chumasú

Is é príomhchuspóir an Aonaid um Shláinte Éisc (FHU) ag Foras na Mara ná ardstádas sláinte na hÉireann a chosaint, agus cumasóidh an trádáil shábháilte ainmhithe dobharshaothraithe laistigh den tír dá bharr, chomh maith le comhpháirtithe trádála thar lear. Is fiú thart ar €170 milliún in aghaidh na bliana d'Éirinn an trádáil san earnáil thábhachtach seo de Gheilleagar Gorm na hÉireann, agus tacaíonn sí le breis agus 1,900 post.



Mar an tÚdarás Inniúil do shláinte ainmhithe uisceacha, tá an FHU freagrach as formheas a dhéanamh ar bhunaíochtaí dobharshaothraithe chomh maith le faireachas galar atá bunaithe ar riosca a chur chun feidhme, agus as bearta rialaithe galar a chur i bhfeidhm. Oibríonn an FHU le hoibreoirí chun comhlíonadh na n-oibleagáidí reachtacha a bhaineann le sláinte ainmhithe uisceacha a chinntiú freisin.

Tacaíonn trí Shaotharlann Tagartha Náisiúnta, atá ina gcuid den FHU freisin, leis an Údarás Inniúil ina ról, trí thart ar 5,000 iasc agus 2,500 moileasc a thástáil in aghaidh na bliana. Faigheann an tÚdarás Inniúil tacaíocht freisin ó fhoireann Cigirí Tréidliachta atá fostaithe ag an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, ach a oibríonn de réir sceidil agus nósanna imeachta a sholáthraíonn an FHU.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:

1. Ár nEolas, Ár gComhairle agus ár Seirbhísí a Athrú ó Bhonn
5. Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann

Ceaduithe

De réir na reachtaíochta náisiúnta, ní mór do gach bunaíocht dobharshaothraithe in Éirinn a bheith ceadaithe ag Foras na Mara. Gan cead den sórt sin, arna eisiúint ag an FHU, ní féidir le bunaíochtaí dobharshaothraithe oibriú, fiú má tá ceadúnas dobharshaothraithe acu. Le bheith ceadaithe, ní mór don oibreoir córas a bheith i bhfeidhm aige ar chóras é a thaispeánann go bhfuil na ceanglais maidir le bithshlándáil, faireachas galar agus coimeád taifead á gcomhlíonadh aige, agus ní mór go mbeadh saoráidí agus trealamh leordhóthanach aige chun an riosca go dtabharfar isteach nó go leathfaidh galair a laghdú go leibhéal inghlactha.

Déantar gach gluaiseacht ainmhithe dobharshaothraithe laistigh den tír, agus coinsíneachtaí ainmhithe agus táirgí áirithe a allmhairítear go hÉirinn agus a onnmhairítear aisti a chur in iúl in iúl don FHU trína thairseach ar líne ag fishhealth.ie. Ar an meán, déanann an FHU próiseáil ar thart ar 2,000 gluaiseacht den sórt sin in aghaidh na bliana (lena mbaineann sé seo le hiarratais a fhaomhadh, an t-oibreoir ag fáil Fógra Formheasa agus cuairt deimhnithe réamh-onnmhairithe a shocrú nuair is gá).

Cigireachtaí

Déanann an FHU rangú riosca ar bhunaíochtaí dobharshaothraithe (bunaithe ar an gcineál táirgthe, an gcineál trádála atá ann agus ar shuíomh na bunaíochta dobharshaothraithe). Déantar iniúchtaí faireachais galar de réir an mheasúnaithe riosca – déantar cigireacht ar shuíomhanna ardriosca uair sa bhliain, déantar cigireacht ar shuíomhanna meánriosca gach dhá bhliain agus déantar iniúchadh ar láithreáin riosca íseal uair amháin gach trí bliana. Tá oibleagáid ar oibreoirí láithreán éisc eite freisin líon forordaithe cuairteanna breise a fháil óna cleachtóir tréidliachta príobháideach.

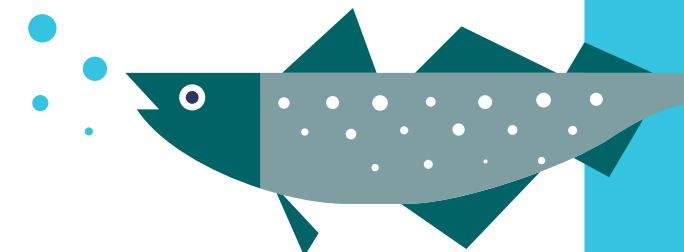


Bogna Griffin, an tAonad um Shláinte Éisc.

Taighde feidhmeach

Anuas ar an ról reachtúil a bhfuil cur síos déanta air thuas, oibríonn Foras na Mara le lucht tionscail agus le páirtithe leasmhara eile chun tionscadail taighde feidhmeacha a aithint, atá deartha chun riachtanas nó saincheist ar leith a fhreagairt. I measc na dtionscadal reatha a bhaineann leis an tionscal tá forbairt teicnící móilíneacha nua a cheadóidh roinnt pataiginí a shainathint ag an am céanna (a d'fhéadfadh úsáid a bhaint as modhanna neamh-mharfacha) agus tionscadal ar na modhanna saothraithe eipidéimeolaíochta agus saotharlainne do *Piscirickettsia salmonis*, arb é an aidhm dheiridh atá aige ná táirgeadh vacsaíne in aghaidh an ghalair a éascú.

Déanann an FHU obair freisin ar ainmhithe uisceacha fiáine nuair is gá, lena n-áirítear tionscadal reatha ar mhodhanna faireachais núíosacha don Phlá Gliomach, i gcomhar leis an tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra (NPWS).



Cén tionchar atá ag an Aonad um Shláinte Éisc?

Ós rud é gur gá le gach bunaíocht dobharshaothraithe in Éirinn a bheith ceadaithe ag an FHU sula bhféadfaidh sé oibriú, agus go gcaithfidh an tAonad gach gluaiseacht inmheánach, chomh maith le hallmhairí agus onnmhairí a cheadú, is léir an tionchar, ag cur san áireamh go bhfuil stádas ard sláinte ag tionscal dobharshaothraithe na hÉireann, go bhfeidhmíonn sé go maith agus go bhfuil sé brabúsach.

Coinníodh stádas ard sláinte na hÉireann maidir le galair atá liostaithe in Iarscríbhinn II a ghabhann le Rialachán (AE) 2016/429 (an Dlí um Shláinte Ainmhithe) go rathúil trí fhaireachas galar agus rialuithe gluaiseachta, rud a chuir ar chumas na hÉireann trádáil go forleathan laistigh den Limistéar Eorpach Eacnamaíoch agus freisin le tríú tíortha.

Is táirgeoir uibheacha bradán í Éire atá aitheanta go hidirnáisiúnta, dár n-úsáid féin agus dár n-onnmhairiú. Ní hamháin go bhfuil na dualgais iniúchta, faireachais agus deimhniúcháin éagsúla a dhéanann an FHU mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag an trádáil sin ach freisin a chosnaíonn Éire ó thaobh allmhairí ubhagán. Tá na tascanna seo bunúsach i gcomhthéacs inbhuanaitheacht fhoriomlán thionscal na mbradán in Éirinn.

Tá ról reachtúil tábhachtach ag an FHU maidir le rialú galar liostaithe in Éirinn, agus oibríonn sé freisin leis an tionscal chun comhlíonadh leanúnach Cód Cleachtais do ghalair neamhliostaithe a spreagadh, rud a thacaíonn le hoibriú inbhuanaithe gach bunaíochtaí do bharshaothraithe sa tír.

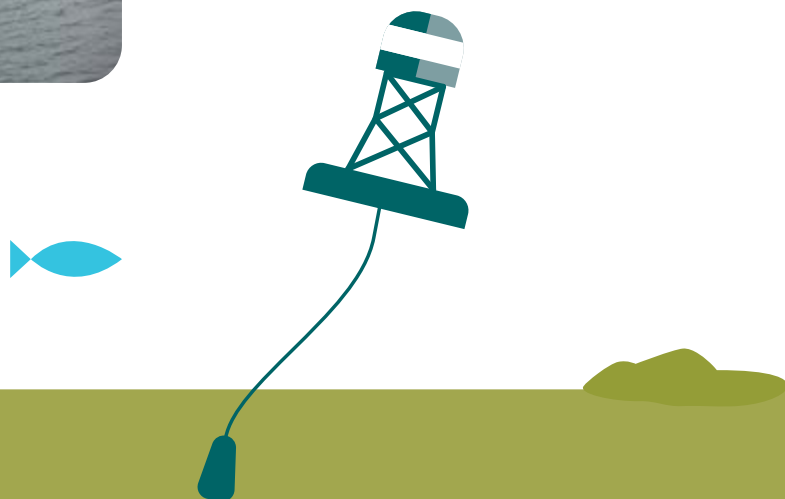


“

Tá sé rithábhachtach go gcoimeádfaidh gach gnóthas táirgthe do bharshaothraithe in Éirinn plean bainistíochta sláinte éisc chun a chinntiú go gcoimeádfar stádas ardleibhéil sláinte ainmhithe uisceacha na hÉireann, agus go ndéanfar rialú ar ghalair uisceacha. Oibríonn páirtithe leasmhara do bharshaothraithe agus tionscail an IFA i gcomhar leis an FHU mar chuid de Ghrúpa Idirchaidrimh um Shláinte Éisc Fhoras na Mara/IFA. Soláthraíonn an grúpa seo fóram do chumarsáid dhíreach idir Foras na Mara agus tionscal na n-iasc eite d'fhonn a chinntiú go bhforbrófar plean straitéiseach do bhainistiú sláinte éisc in Éirinn agus chun cur chuige spriocdhírithe a aithint maidir le riachtanais taighde feidhmeach ar shaincheisteanna tionscail de réir mar a thagann siad chun cinn.

”

Teresa Morrissey, Executive Secretary,
Feirmeoirí Aontaithe na hÉireann Dobharshaothrú



CÁS-STAIDÉAR

Príomhshonraí suirbhé mara geoifisiceacha a fháil i bPlean um Limistéir Mhuirí Sainithe (DMAP) do Chósta Theas na hÉireann chun treoir a thabhairt do phleanáil bhonneagair ghaoithe amach ón gcósta

Leis na Pleananna Ceantar Muirí Sainithe (DMAPs) soláthar déantar foráil d'fhorbairt inbhuanaithe fuinnimh gaoithe amach ón gcósta trí bhreithniú a dhéanamh ar chosaint an chomhshaoil agus úsáideoirí agus gníomhaíochtaí muirí atá ann cheana féin.



Sa Chreat um Fhuinneamh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta sa Tódhchaí (ORE), ar fhoilsigh an Rialtas é i mBealtaine 2024, leagadh amach na príomhchuspóirí a thiomáineann forbairt acmhainní suntasacha amach ón gcósta na hÉireann:

- 1 Geilleagar na hÉireann a dhíchárbónú ar aon dul le huaillmhianta aeráide náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta atá ceangailteach ó thaobh dlí;
- 2 Slándáil fuinnimh fhadtéarmach a chinntiú; agus,
- 3 Deiseanna glasa tionsclaíochta a fhorbairt le haghaidh úsáid fuinnimh agus le haghaidh margaí easpórtála.



Tá méadú ag teacht ar an riachtanas do chomhairle theicniúil agus eolaíoch ó Fhoras na Mara chun tacú le forbairt ghaoithe amach ón gcósta in uiscí na hÉireann, in éineacht le beartais náisiúnta um fhuinneamh nua.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:

1. Ár nEolas, Ár gComhairle agus ár Seirbhísí a Athrú ó Bhonn
2. Dúshlán aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Slándála a chomhlíonadh
4. Claoclú an Aigéin Dhigitigh a Threorú
5. Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann

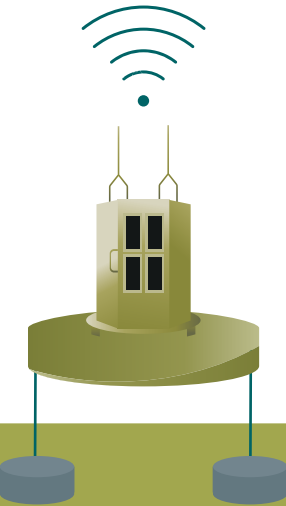


Tá spriocanna uailmhianacha socraithe do sheachadadh ORE i gcrios eacnamaíoch eisiach na hÉireann: 20GW faoi 2040; agus ar a laghad 37GW san iomlán faoi 2050 – sé huairé éileamh reatha leictreachais na hÉireann. Cabhróidh beartas na hÉireann sa réimse seo freisin le sprioc na hEorpa an AE a dhéanamh neodrach ó thaobh na haeráide de faoi 2050, i gcomhréir le Comhaontú Pháras.

I bhforbairt DMAP an Chósta Theas – an chéad DMAP in Éirinn – fuair agus sholáthair Foras na Mara príomhshonraí suirbhé mara geoifisiceacha don Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide (DECC) chun díriosa a dhéanamh ar cheantanna ORESS 2.1 agus 2.2 2025 d’fhorbróirí. Chun tacú le cinnteoireacht ORE amach anseo, d’fhorbair Foras na Mara uirlis dhigiteach atá éasca le húsáid chun sonraí a bhaineann le ORE a bhainistiú mar chuid den Chlár um Fhuinneamh Gaoithe Amach ón gCósta.

Cuireadh tús le hobair ar shonraí geoifisiceacha suirbhé mara a fháil le soláthar theorainn DMAP díorthaithe INFOMAR agus coimisiúnaíodh staidéir deisce gaolmhara in 2023 agus 2024 chun suirbhé a dhéanamh ar thionchar torainn ar iascaigh agus chun stádas sonraí geoifisiceacha atá ar fáil go poiblí sa DMAP a chinneadh. Coimisiúnaíodh tiomsú na ndoiciméad iarratais ar cheadúnas, rud a chuir ar chumas an DECC iarratas a dhéanamh chuig Údarás Rialála na Limistéar Muirí (MARA) ar cheadúnas úsáide muirí don obair shuirbhéireachta riachtanach.

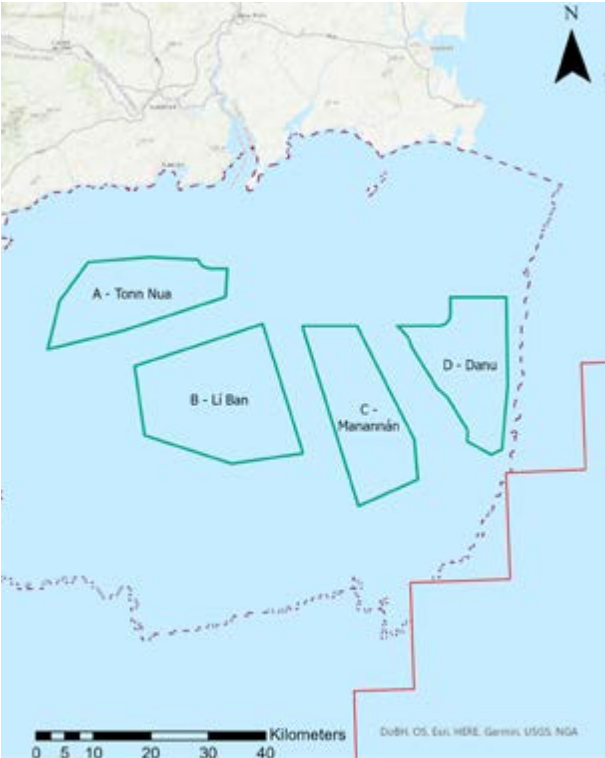
Sannadh 52 lá soitheach ar an soitheach taighde náisiúnta, RV *Tom Crean*. Tugadh faoi dhá fheachtas suirbhé an-rathúil idir Iúil agus tús Mheán Fómhair 2024. Bhí siad seo sceidealaithe roimh shéasúr sceathraí bliantúil na scadán níos déanaí sa bhliain chun aon tionchar ar ghníomhaíocht iascaireachta sa cheantar a íoslaghdú.



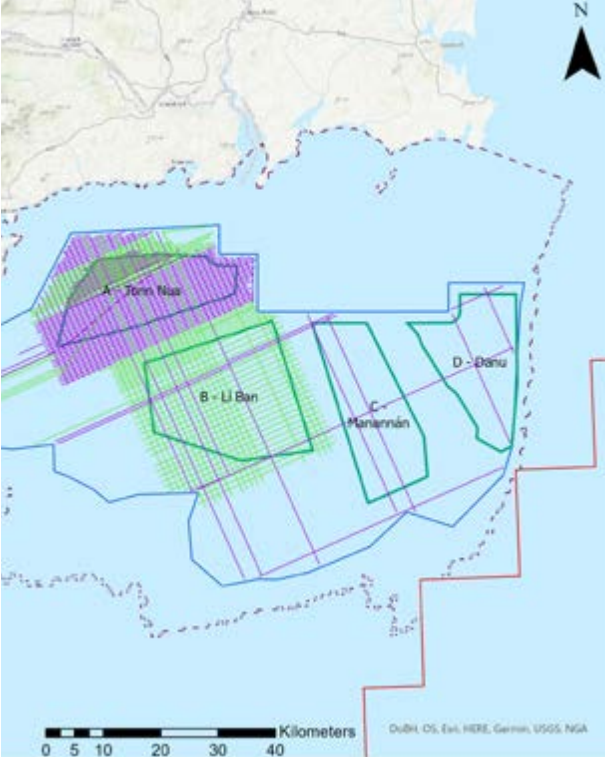
San iomlán, fuarthas 4,742 ciliméadar de líne suirbhéireachta de shonraí seisimeacha ilchaineil ultra-ardtaifeach (UHRS), próifíl fo-bhun, agus sonraí il-léa. Léiríonn sonraí próiseáilte geolaíocht chasta sa cheantar, le doimhneacht éagsúil go buncharraig, gnéithe cainéal dríodair faoi thalamh, agus dríodar dromchla soghluaiste lena n-áirítear tonnta móra gainimh.

Rinneadh Tonn Nua (Láithreán A – an tosaíocht is airde) a mhapaíl go hiomlán de réir na sonraíochta agus rinneadh suirbhé ar chuid shuntasach de Li Ban (Láithreán B) freisin agus ba ghá suirbhé eile ar thaifeach níos airde a chomhlánú. Fuarthas sonraí réigiúnacha breise sa chonair trasdulta ó oirthear Chorcaí go dtí na ceantair thuas, agus siar agus ó dheas isteach i láithreán C agus D. Beidh na sonraí seo lárnach chun eolas a thabhairt d’fhorbairt mhúlna talún réigiúnach agus dí-riosca a dhéanamh ar phróiseas ceantála DMAP an Chósta Theas in 2025.

Chun an clár um shuirbhéanna geoifisiceacha a bhaint amach, fostaíodh roinnt fiontar beag agus meánmhéide (SMES) lena n-áirítear eolaithe comhshaoil, geo-eolaithe, hidreagrafaithe, breathnóirí ar mhamaigh mhara, agus oifigigh idirchaidrimh iascaigh.



Limistéir Mhuirí A go D molta d’fhorbairt gaoithe amach ón gcósta i DMAP an Chósta Theas



Léarscáil táirgthe Suirbhéireachta Geoifisiceach ORE de shonraí Seisimeacha Ardtaifeacha a fuair Foras na Mara ar bord *Tom Crean* le linn DMAP an Chósta Theas le linn 2024

Cén tionchar atá ag an obair seo?

Cé gur tugadh faoi roinnt tionscadal stairiúil áitiúil taighde, ba é seo an chéad suirbhé seismeach taiscéalaíochta ultra-ardtaifeach córasach ilchainéil a rinneadh i limistéar an chósta theas, agus an chéad suirbhé den sórt sin ag an Stát, ag méadú cumas an rialtais sonraí bonnlíne riachtanacha a sheachadadh go díreach chun dlús a chur le forbairt gaoithe amach ón gcósta.

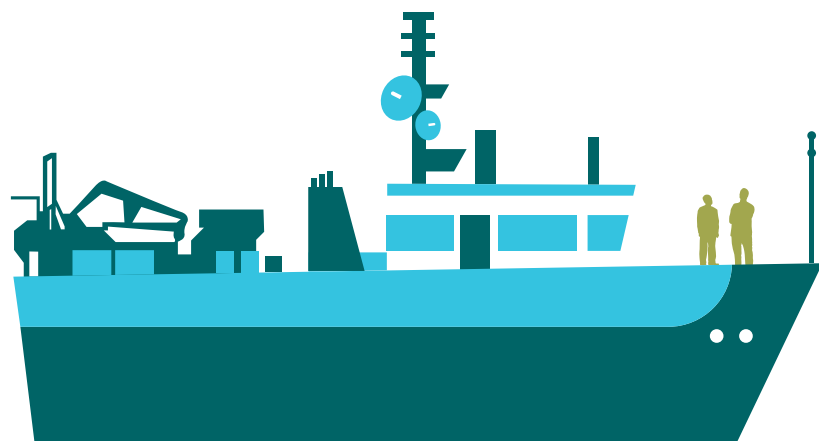
Mar gheall ar an rochtain ar thacar sonraí aonair a fuarthas ó stát, maolaíodh an gá atá le cuideachtaí ORE leasmhara a gcuid suirbhéanna taiscéalaíochta féin a dhéanamh. Sa bhealach sin, seachnaítear na hiarmhairtí carnacha a bhainfeadh le suirbhéanna iomadúla comhchosúla.

Tá na sonraí a bhailíonn Foras na Mara fíor-luachmhar chun eolas a sholáthar i ndáil leis na roghanna pleanála agus suiteála infrastruchtúir, agus riachtanais suirbhéanna tionscail amach anseo, agus chun ceant iomaíoch a chinntiú don chéad cheann de na láithreáin fuinnimh gaoithe atá faoi stiúir an Phlean (atá beartaithe do 2025) agus an phraghsáil aonaid fuinnimh is fearr don Stát.

Seachas cúnamh a thabhairt do DECC sa phróiseas ceantála atá le teacht, bhí an malartú sonraí agus faisnéise le Eirgrid tairbheach maidir lena bpleanáil bonneagair (cábla agus fostáisiún), a bpleanáil suirbhéanna, agus a gcur chuige rannpháirtíochta poiblí agus iascaigh.

Tar éis tréimhsí comhairliúcháin phoiblí, d'fhaomh Tithe an Oireachtais DMAP an Chósta Theas i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2024.

Leis an obair seo, léirigh Foras na Mara go bhfuil an cumas teicniúil, agus an t-eolas fearainn aige chun bonneagar agus cumais suirbhéireachta náisiúnta a fhorbairt tuilleadh. Léirigh sé inniúlacht an Fhorais ó thaobh bainistíochta, próiseála, comhtháthaithe, agus chun na sonraí gaolmhara a scaipeadh, agus an acmhainneacht náisiúnta a fhorbairt chun tacú le riachtanais an rialtais amach anseo, cibé acu a bhaineann le DMAP nó le forbairt ceant, nó le pleanáil nó comhlíonadh sonrach.



Bhí seachadadh rathúil an fheachtais suirbhé cabhrach chun an muinín atá ag an tionscail a mhéadú maidir le cumas an Stáit chun Córas ORE Plean-Treoraithe a sheachadadh, ag tógáil ar an rath a bhí ar thairiscint Chéim 1 mar gheall ar infhaighteacht sonraí INFOMAR.

Beidh an tionscadal ar líne ArcGIS atá gar do shuirbhé beo a d'fhorbair an fhoireann ina phríomhuirlis chun éachtaí an tsuirbhé agus aschuir sonraí a léiriú, agus chun aon ghníomhaíochtaí den sórt sin a phleanáil amach anseo.



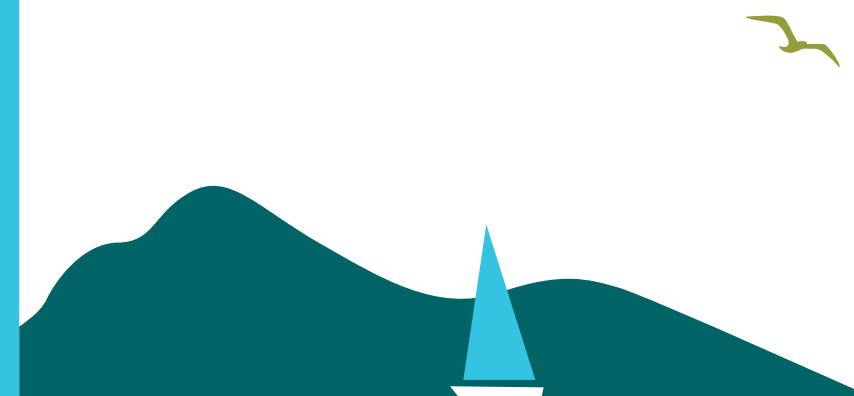
D'fhorbair foireann Seirbhísí Faisnéise agus Forbartha Fhoras na Mara **Uirlis Tacaíochta Digití ORE** in 2024 don fhoireann Comhshaoil Amach ón gCósta agus Forbairt sa Todhchaí sa Roinn Comhshaoil, Cumarsáide agus Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide (DECC). Bhí uirlis dhigiteach inmheánach a bhí éasca le húsáid ag teastáil ón bhfoireann chun aon phointe rochtana amháin a sholáthar ar shonraí muirí ábhartha d'fhoirne na rannóige. Áiríodh leis an gceanglas rochtain rialaithe a sholáthar ar shonraí oibre le roinnt bunchumais anailíse spásúlachta ar féidir iad a fhorbairt de réir mar a thagann riachtanais chun cinn. Athúsáideadh níos mó ná 100 tacar sonraí, a tháinig ó raon clár, agus cheadaigh sé seo forbairt tapa na huirlise.



Tá Uirlis Dhigiteach ORE curtha i bhfeidhm go rathúil, i gcomhpháirtíocht le Foras na Mara, agus cuireann sí rochtain éasca ar fáil d'fhoireann na Roinne Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide ar shonraí inúsáidte, amhairc agus ardchaighdeán ar féidir iad a roinnt ar fud na bhfoirne. Is é an cuspóir deiridh tacú le cinnteoirí agus lucht déanta beartas le pleanáil spásúlachta mhuirí le haghaidh ORE. Tacóidh an uirlis, go háirithe, le limistéir mhuirí a ainmniú a bheidh oiriúnach d'fhorbairt agus do bheartas ORE i gcomhthéacs an chórais phlean-threoraithe le haghaidh ORE. Chuir sé seo ar chumas tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar go leor de na critéir agus na breithnithe a bhaineann le forbairt ORE i limistéir mhuirí agus beidh sé ina thacaíocht thábhachtach do chinntí amach anseo maidir le beartas ORE.



Jo Coloe, An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide Foireann Sonraí & Suirbhéireachta ORE



Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 2

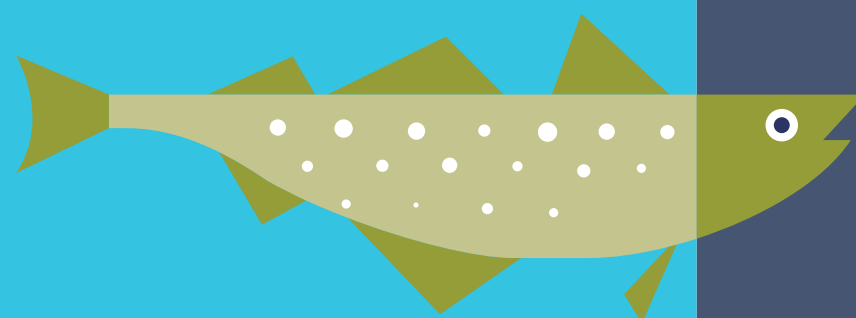
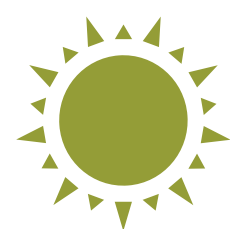
Aghaidh a Thabhairt ar Dhúshláin Aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Slándála Bia Mara



Agus suíomh geografach na hÉireann ag teorainn na hEorpa leis an Atlantach á ghiaráil, tá Foras na Mara ina phríomhghníomhaí san iarracht náisiúnta is gá chun na gealltanais agus na spriocanna uaillmhianacha atá leagtha amach i bPlean Gníomhaíochta Aeráide na hÉireann 2024 a bhaint amach.

Tá comhairle láidir agus réamhaisnéis oibriúcháin ar ár n-aigéan agus ár n-aeráid atá ag athrú riachtanach don Rialtas chun beartais éifeachtacha agus cinntí bainistíochta a dhéanamh chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar raon saincheisteanna agus dúshlán. Áirítear orthu sin dáileadh éisc atá ag athrú, slándáil bia mara, geilleagar ísealcharbóin, ardú i leibhéal na farraige, tuilte agus, níos mó ná riamh, imeachtaí foircneacha aimsire.

Chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na dúshláin seo, tá Foras na Mara i gcónaí ag forbairt comhpháirtíochtaí nua taighde agus socruithe seachadta seirbhíse leis an Rialtas agus a ghníomhaireachtaí, chomh maith le hinfheistiú i mbonneagar breathnóireachta agus bailithe sonraí domhanda agus náisiúnta. Feidhmíonn clár an Chiste Eorpaigh Muirí, lascaigh agus Dobharshaothraithe (EMFAF) mar phríomhchumasóir chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar dhúshláin earnála a bhaineann le hathrú aeráide agus bithéagsúlacht.



PRÍOMH-BHUAICPHOINTÍ 2024:

RV *Celtic Explorer* ag taisteal go dtí an Ghraonlainn le haghaidh Suirbhé Taighde Oighearshruth

I mí Iúil, sheol an RV *Celtic Explorer* chuig iarthar na Graonlainne chun suirbhé taighde comhoibríoch a éascú idir ollscoileanna Mheiriceá. Thug an turas an t-árthach taighde go láithreacha iargúlta níos faide ná a ngnáth-thurais in uiscí na hÉireann, chun go bhfeicfidh eolaithe an chaoi a bhfuil oighearshruth ag athrú, ag baint úsáide as teicneolaíocht nuálach.

Le tuiscint a fháil ar mheicnic mhionsonraithe tógáil moráin (táirgtear moráin nuair a chruinníonn dríodar ag críochoirt na n-oighearshruthanna asraonta) beifear in ann samhlacha starracha oighir i bhfad níos cruinne ar leibhéal na farraige a thógáil, rud a chuirfidh lenár n-athléimneacht in aghaidh athrú aeráide.



Sonraí ar Shláinte Aigéin a Bhailiú le Suirbhé Bliantúil Aeráide Aigéin

Bhí Suirbhé Bliantúil Aeráide Aigéin Fhoras na Mara ar siúl ó 22 Meitheamh go 5 Iúil, ag bailiú faisnéise riachtanach fisiceach agus ceimiceach faoi shláinte an aigéin, agus ag déanamh monatóireachta ar athruithe le himeacht ama. Gach bliain, dírónn an Suirbhé ar uiscí doimhne amach ó chósta thiar na hÉireann, go háirithe san Umar Rockall, chomh maith le limistéir níos éadomhain dár scairbh ilchríochach.

Aigéan Riachtanach Bailíodh sonraí Athróg ó dhromchla na farraige síos go dtí doimhneacht iomlán an aigéin. Críochnaíodh an suirbhé go rathúil, in ainneoin gur tharla stoirm shuntasach samhraidh le tonnta níos mó ná sé mhéadar ar airde. Cuireann na sonraí a bhailítear le staidéir réigiúnacha agus dhomhanda (an tAtlantach Thuaidh - ICES agus Córas Breathnadóireachta an Aigéin Dhomhanda), ag cur le tuiscint ar athruithe aigéin le himeacht ama.



Sonraí Beatha agus Aeráide a Sholáthar

Is éard atá i Líonra Breathnadóireachta Baoithe Sonraí Mara na hÉireann (IMDBON) ná líonra de chúig bhaoithe faire mara amach ón gcósta atá suite timpeall na hÉireann. Ó 2001 i leith, tá sé ag tuairisciú tomhais aimsire in aghaidh na huaire ar theocht an aeir, taise, brú an atmaisféir, luas agus treo na gaoithe, chomh maith le teocht dhromchla na farraige, airde na dtonn agus tréimhse na dtonn. Úsáideann córais réamhaisnéise Met Éireann sonraí an Líonra, a roinntear go domhanda trí Chóras Teileachumarsáide Domhanda na hEagraíochta Meitéareolaíochta Domhanda, agus déantar rialú ar cháilíocht chun críocha clíomeolaíochta.



D'fheabhsaigh an IMDBON cumas na hÉireann chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar eochair-Athraitheacha Aeráide Riachtanacha (ECVanna) ar bhonn oibriúcháin agus neartaíonn sé cumas na hÉireann chun freagairt do dhúshláin a bhaineann leis an aeráid agus leis an aimsir. Chomh maith le réamhaisnéis na haimsire, cuireann an Líonra sonraí rithabhachtacha ar fáil le haghaidh feacháin loingseoireachta, rabhaidh gála agus aosaithe do mharaíthe, monatóireacht aigéaneolaíochta agus comhshaoil, breathnuithe aeráide, faisnéis phoiblí agus taighde.

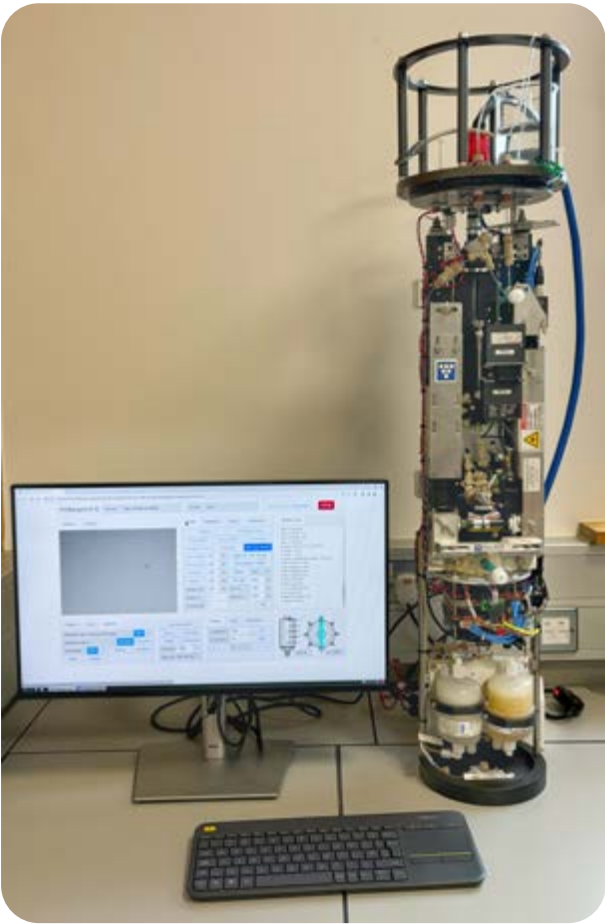
Speicis agus Stoic a Chosaint

Cuireann Foras na Mara Scéim Bithéagsúlachta Mara an Chiste Eorpaigh Muirí, Iascaigh agus Dobharshaothraithe i bhfeidhm trí shraith cheadaithe de naoi dtionscadal iascaigh agus seacht dtionscadal a bhaineann le dobharshaothrú. Scrúdaíonn tionscadal eiseamláireach 'Bainistíocht Iascach Cráifisce na gCloch chun Speicis atá i mBaol Criticiúil a Chosaint', agus tá sé mar aidhm aige ceist na bhfoghabháil speiceas atá i mbaol a réiteach, idirghníomhú idir iascach líonta tacair agus fiadhúlra (rónta, muca mara, deilfeanna) agus speicis atá i mbaol (sciataí agus roic) a mheasúnú, chun stoic éisc ghliomach a mheas agus a bhfuil tionchar íseal acu. Rinneadh dul chun cinn i ndáil leis na seacht bpacáiste oibre go léir in 2024, agus léiríodh dá réir céimeanna inláimhsithe i dtreo caomhnú bithéagsúlachta na mara.

Seoladh mórthionscadal Eorpach nua, arna chomhordú ag Foras na Mara agus arna mhaoiniú ag an gclár Fís Eorpach, i mí Feabhra. Le Marine Beacon tugtar aghaidh ar bhearnaí atá ann sa tuiscint atá againn ar an tionchar a bhíonn ag foghabhálacha ar speicis atá faoi Chosaint, i mBaol agus i mBagairt san Atlantach, agus forbrófar leis modhanna chun monatóireacht agus maolú níos fearr a dhéanamh ar na tionchair sin. Tá 21 comhpháirtí taighde, teicneolaíochta agus iascaigh ó naoi dtír ag gabháil le Marine Beacon chun oibriú thar ár bhfarraigí réigiúnacha. Áiríteoidh an comhoibriú seo go mbeidh uirlisí nua faireacháin agus maolaithe éifeachtach agus indéanta, go mbainfear feidhm agus tionchar fadtéarmach amach, agus go seachadfar farraigí níos sláintiúla agus iascach níos inbhuanaithe.

Uirlis nua cianbhraite chun imeachtaí um bhláthú Díobhálach Algach a bhreathnú amach ón gcósta

Suiteáladh ionstraim nua cianbhraite in-situ, a bhfuil cumas íomháithe suas le 10,000 speiceas planctóin aige i ngach sampla uisce farraige, agus cuireadh i bhfeidhm go rathúil é ar bord an RV Tom Crean le linn suirbhé cósta bliantúil fíteaplanctóin Fhoras na Mara i mí Lúnasa 2024. Cuireann an Imaging Flow Cytobot go mór le cumas agus cumas na foirne Fíteaplanctóin chun teagmhais agus speicis Bláth Díobhálach Algach a bhrath agus a bhreathnú amach ón gcósta. Cuireann sainaitheint teagmhais HAB agus a gcumas tionchar a bheith acu ar oibríochtaí dobharshaothraithe cladaigh ar chumas na foirne ardrabhaidh agus foláirimh a eisiúint. Is mór an tairbhe iad seo do tháirgeoirí/phróiseálaithe sliogéisc, do bhainistíocht iascaigh agus d'údaráis inniúla, ag cabhrú le cinnteoireacht agus bainistíocht riosca chun caillteanais socheacnamaíocha agus dochar d'éiceachórais mhuirí a mhaolú.



Monatóireacht ar Shonraí Aigéanacha Fadtéarmacha

Is é clár domhanda Argo an chéad ghréasán domhanda breathnóireachta aigéin in-situ riamh i stair na haigéneolaíochta. Leis na braiteoirí ardcháilíochta, an clúdach spásúlachta agus ama domhanda, agus an raon doimhneachta mór, tá Argo oiriúnach go maith chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar luaineachtaí ó bhliain go bliain agus ar threochtaí fadtéarmacha i ndáile le hábhar teasa aigéin.

Tá sonraí Argo anois ar an bhfoinse is flúirsí de phróifílí teochta faoi uisce, salandacht agus brú san aigéan. Cuidíonn na sonraí seo le heolaithe tuiscint a fháil ar an gcaoi a bhfuil staid fhisiceach an aigéin ag athrú le himeacht ama agus úsáideann ionaid aimsire agus aeráide iad chun cabhrú le tuiscint a fháil ar an gcaoi a dtéann na haigéin i bhfeidhm ar aeráid. Tá ranníocaíocht Fhoras na Mara leis an gclár domhanda, trí Euro-Argo ERIC, comhdhéanta de 14 snámhán agus tá 3,628 próifíl salandachta agus teochta seachadta (amhail an 17 Nollaig 2024) ó dhromchla an uisce go dtí líude 2,000 méadar ar doimhneacht. Cuireann na sonraí seo leis an eolaíocht agus le beartas aeráide ar an scála domhanda.



Tuilleadh Eolais agus Taighde Gaolmhar ar Limistéir Chosanta Mhuirí

D'óstáil foireann Ardseirbhísí Mapála Fhoras na Mara, i gcomhar le Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh (UCC) agus an Lárionad um Eolaíocht Chomhshaoil, Iascaigh agus Dobharshaothraithe (CEFAS), ceardlann ar Limistéir faoi Chosaint Mhuirí (MPA) agus mhaoinigh siad imscaradh Feithicle Chianoibrithe. Tá an obair seo ag tógáil ar chomhoibriú taighde anailísíochta sonraí bunaithe ar an Intleacht Shaorga le hOllscoil Plymouth agus CEFAS, lena mbaineann sainaithint uathoibrithe Sea Pen i sonraí físe suirbhé stairiúla na hÉireann *Nephrops*.

Thacaigh Foras na Mara le hanailís íogaireachta na Mara Ceiltí, arb é sin an tuarascáil ar a mbeidh an bonn fianaise do Limistéir Pleanála Spásúlachta (SPAnna) sa Mhuir Cheilteach bunaithe. Tá baint ag an bhForas le roinnt tionscadal maoinithe Ardoideachais freisin atá ag obair ar MPAnna ar nós BioProtect.

Sonraí Ríthábhachtacha a Sholáthar do Shlándáil Bia Mara

Cuireann Foras na Mara ráitis inbhuanaitheachta bliantúla ar fáil don Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara maidir le breis agus 70 speiceas a shaothraítear ar bhonn tráchtála, atá mar bhonn do bheartais acmhainní iascaigh na hÉireann. Leis an bhfaisnéis seo deimhnítear go bhfanann tionscal bia mara na hÉireann inmharthana, ag tacú lena cháil dhomhanda maidir le cleachtais inbhuanaithe.



Réamh-mheastacháin Aeráide a Sholáthar mar Bhonn Eolais don Chinnteoireacht

Tháinig deireadh le tionscadal CE2COAST arna mhaoiniú ag JPI-Oigéin/JPI-Aeráide in 2024. Bhain Foras na Mara úsáid as samhail Aigéin na Mara Ceiltí chun réamh-mheastacháin aeráide a dhéanamh sa tionscadal seo. Ghin an tionscadal sonraí ardtáirghe ar fhisic aigéin ghreille agus ar bhithgheiceimic don tréimhse 1993 – 2021, agus sonraí teilgin do 2015 – 2075. Tá cumas samhaltaithe aeráide tábhachtach tógtha ag CE2COAST agus an tionscadal BIOCELTIC roimhe seo, agus úsáideadh é le linn 2024.

Le maoiniú ón gCiste Eorpach Muirí, Iascaigh agus Dobharshaothraithe (EMFAF), d'fhorbair an fhoireann um shamhaltú aeráide aigéin samhail nua farraige ar scála ciliméadar de Chrios Eacnamaíoch Eisiach na hÉireann (EEZ). Soláthróidh an tsamhail seo réamh-mheastacháin aeráide aigéin faoi chásanna astaíochtaí éagsúla, rud a chuirfidh ar chumas na n-earnálacha iascaigh agus dobharshaothraithe oiriúnuithe a phleanáil do thionchair an athraithe aeráide. Beidh na sonraí mar thaca freisin do sheirbhísí earnála aeráide agus beidh siad mar acmhainn ríthábhachtach le haghaidh cinntí beartais.



CÁS-STAIDÉAR

D'éirigh le Foras na Mara speicis bráithre fíor-annamh a chlibeáil

Beidh sonraí ó na clibeanna leictreonacha ar dhá bhráithre – a chuir Foras na Mara clib orthu i bhfómhar 2024 – bunúsach maidir le pleananna caomhnaithe a fhorbairt don speiceas in uiscí na hÉireann agus na hEorpa.



Tá sé mar aidhm ag an tionscadal freisin imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar idirghníomhaíocht na speiceas seo le hiascaigh tráchtála áitiúla agus modhanna a aithint chun foghabháil na n-ainmhithe seo a laghdú.

Tá cur síos déanta ar Chuan Thrá Lí mar 'sheoid sa choróin' de shaol muirí na hÉireann toisc go bhfuil cuid de na speicis siorcanna, sciataí agus roic is annamha san Eoraip. Ina measc seo tá an scolabard agus an bráithre, atá i mbaol mór. Tá laghdú suntasach tagtha ar líon na mbráithre a tuairiscíodh, a bhfuil saolré suas le 35 – 40 bliain aige, ó na 1960idí agus is annamh a fheictear iad inniu.

Mar chuid den tionscadal clibeála laistigh de Chuan Thrá Lí oibrítear go dlúth le hiascairí áitiúla. Mar chuid den taighde leanúnach, d'éirigh le Foras na Mara dhá bhráithre a chlibeáil agus a scaoileadh saor i gCuan Thrá Lí i bhfómhar 2024.

Forbairt úrnua a bhí ann maidir le caomhnú muirí in Éirinn mar ba é seo an chéad (agus an dara) uair riamh a cuireadh clib leictreonach ar bhráithre in uiscí na hÉireann.

In 2022, chuir Foras na Mara tús le staidéar mórscála rianaithe éisc (teilméadracht) i gCuan Thrá Lí, Co. Chiarraí. Ar cheann de phríomhthosaíochtaí an taighde seo bhí imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar ghluaiseachtaí agus ar iompar ealásmabraincaigh atá i mbaol (siorcanna, roic agus sciataí) amhail roc dústríochta, roc an gha nimhe, an scolabard agus an bráithre, laistigh den chuan, agus iarracht a dhéanamh a aithint cén fáth a bhfuil an láthair seo chomh tábhachtach sin do na speicis seo.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:
2: Dúshlán aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Slándála a chomhlíonadh
3: Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht



Bhí an t-iascaire áitiúil Michael Peter Hennessy ar a bhád iascaireachta, in éineacht le foireann Fhoras na Mara nuair a bhí siad in ann dhá bhráithre (ceann amháin fireann agus baineann) a thabhairt go cúramach ar bord, seachtain óna chéile. Chuir Foras na Mara Clib Cartlainne Satailíte Pop-Amach (PSAT) orthu sular scaoileadh saor iad go sábháilte ar ais san uisce.

Fanfaidh na clibeanna leictreonacha ceangailte leis na bráithre ar feadh 12 mhí agus iad ag logáil príomhfaisnéis. Tar éis sin, dícheanglóar na clibeanna go huathoibríoch ó na siorcanna agus rachaidh siad suas go dtí an dromchla.

Cuirfear tús leis na sonraí atá stóráilte sa chlib a tharchur ar ais chuig eolaithe Fhoras na Mara agus beidh siadsan in ann a bhreacadh síos cá raibh na siorcanna aonair le 12 mhí anuas. Táthar ag súil go ndéanfar tuilleadh eiseamal bráithre a chlibeáil ar an gcaoi chéanna in 2025.



Tá an chlibeáil mar chuid de thionscadal níos mó chun éifeachtaí iascaigh ar speicis nach spriocspeicis iad a laghdú, ina bhfuil foirne breathnóirí ag obair ar muir le hiascairí. Tá an tionscadal á mháoiniú ag an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus an Ciste Eorpach Muirí Iascaigh agus Dobharshaothraithe (EMFAF).



Cén tionchar atá ag an obair seo?

Tabharfaidh na Clibeanna Cartlainne Satailíte Pop-Amach ar na bráithre sonraí ríthábhachtacha chun cabhrú le heolaithe tuiscint a fháil ar ghluaiseachtaí na speiceas, a n-imirce, an áit a n-itheann siad agus an áit a bhféadfadh siad pórú.

Tá na sonraí leictreonacha ón gclibeáil seo agus ó chinn eile dá leithéid sa chlár lárnach freisin chun pleananna caomhnaithe a fhorbairt do speicis neamhchoitianta agus i mbaol, lena n-áirítear ainmniú Limistéir faoi Chosaint Mhuirí. Beidh na sonraí bunúsach do straitéisí caomhnaithe amach anseo, a mbeidh sé mar aidhm acu maireachtáil an bhráthair, ar speiceas neamhchoitianta é, in uiscí na hÉireann agus na hEorpa a chosaint.

Chuir Foras na Mara an chlibeáil bráithre in iúl do lucht éisteachta leathan (lena n-áirítear agallamh ar Morning Ireland ar RTÉ Raidió a hAon), ag ardú feasachta faoin gclár clibeála, speiceas an bhráthair é féin, agus an tábhacht a bhaineann le speicis mhuirí a chaomhnú.

Tionchar eile atá ag an gclár clibeála is ea go bhfuil saineolas forbartha ag Foras na Mara le blianta beaga anuas go bhfuil sé ar an bhfoireann roghnaithe anois do Chlár Clibeála Satailíte an Choimisiúin Idirnáisiúnta um Chaomhnú Thuinnín Atlantaigh (ICCAT). Forbraíodh obair chomh maith le grúpa comhpháirtithe i nGníomhaireacht na Loch agus in institiúidí tríú leibhéal, a bhíonn ag brath ar údaruithe Fhoras na Mara chun tabhairt faoin bpróiseas oilte chun ainmhithe beo gan dochar a ghabháil, a chlibeáil agus a scaoileadh saor.

“

Is beag duine againn, más ann dóibh, a fheicfidh bráthar san uisce riamh, agus fiú dá ndéanfaimis, b'fhéidir nach gciallódh sé mórán. Cén fáth suim a bheith againn iontu, mar sin? Toisc go bhfuil a láithreacht - agus, níos tábhachtaí fós, a gcumas pórú rathúil - ina tháscaire maith go bhfuil ag éirí go maith leis na farraigí.

”

An t-iriseoir comhshaoil Ella McSweeney ina halt san Irish Times, "Angel sharks are now so rare that maritime scientists can go an entire career without seeing one."



[Léigh an t-alt san Irish Times](#)



[Féach ar an bhfíseán ar YouTube](#)



CÁS-STAIDÉAR

Seirbhís shamhaltú cósta oibriúcháin chun tacú le hathchóiriú bithéagsúlachta agus dobharshaothrú oisrí i gCuan na Gaillimhe

Soláthraíonn clár breathnadóireachta agus samhltú aigéin Fhoras na Mara tuiscint níos doimhne ar an gcaoi ar tháinig athrú ar dhálaí aigéin le blianta beaga anuas agus cabhraíonn sé le réamh-mheas a dhéanamh ar conas is féidir leis an timpeallacht mhuirí éabhlóid de réir cásanna éagsúla aeráide. Tá seirbhís amháin dá leithéid i gCuan na Gaillimhe ag cuidiú le tacú le dobharshaothrú oisrí agus le cuidiú le hathchóiriú oisrí dúchasacha fiáine sa chuan.

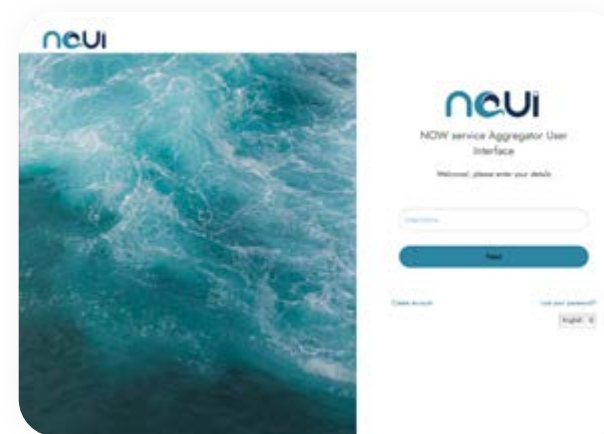


Tá líon oisrí dúchasacha Eorpacha (*Ostrea edulis*) i gCuan na Gaillimhe atá ídithe i gcoibhneas leis an líon daoibh a bhí ann roimhe seo nuair a raibh an t-iascach tráchtála ag brath air ar feadh na gcéadta bliain, mar aon le raon leathan de shuíomhanna táirgthe muirí débhlascacha. Chun cabhrú le hathchóiriú na n-oisrí dúchasacha fiáine agus chun tacú le feirmeoireacht oisrí sa chuan, tá sé ríthábhachtach limistéir a aithint atá oiriúnach d'fheirmeoireacht oisrí agus do lonnaíochtaí oisrí, bunaithe ar na coinníollacha comhshaoil atá i réim.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:

1. Ár nEolas, Ár gComhairle agus ár Seirbhísí a Athrú ó Bhonn
- 2: Dúshlán aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Slándála a chomhlíonadh
- 3: Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht
4. Claohlú an Aigéin Dhigitigh a Threorú
5. Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann



Chun tacú leis na haidhmeanna seo, chuaigh Foras na Mara i gcomhpháirtíocht le NOW Systems (An Spáinn) chun ardán ar líne a fhorbairt a sholáthraíonn faisnéis ar dhálaí hidridinimiciúla i gCuan na Gaillimhe. Tá an tionscadal BIODIVER-COAST á mhaoiniú ag Mercator Ocean International faoi Chlár Rannpháirtíochta Úsáideoirí Seirbhíse Muirí Copernicus 2022-2028. Thosaigh sé i mí Iúil 2023 agus leanann sé go dtí Eanáir 2025.

Is seirbhís aigéaneolaíochta gréasáin é an t-ardán (bioiver.naui.io) a chuidíonn le dúshlán a shárú maidir le muirshaothrú débhlascach inbhuanaithe a bhaint amach, athchóiriú talaimh oisrí, agus athchóiriú na bithéagsúlachta i gCuan na Gaillimhe. I measc na ndúshlán tá ráigeanna galair, sioltachán, teagmhais salandachta íseal agus, roimhe seo, bhí droch-bhainistíocht iascaigh ann.

Tá dhá ghné ag baint le CÓSTA BITHÉAGSÚIL: limistéir a shainaithint ina bhfuil gnáthóg oiriúnach le haghaidh feirmeoireachta oisrí agus le haghaidh lonnaíochtaí oisrí bunaithe ar na coinníollacha comhshaoil atá i réim, agus faisnéis a sholáthar ar na coinníollacha neamhfhabhracha atá le teacht, amhail teagmhais salandachta íseal (ar féidir ionchuir fhionnuisce arda abhann ó am go chéile nó marthanach a bheith mar thoradh orthu) agus tonnta teasa, ionas gur féidir le feirmeoirí oisrí bearta a dhéanamh chun a stoic oisrí a chosaint.

Leis an tseirbhís mapála aeráide, is féidir le feirmeoirí oisrí a aithint anois, le 10 mbliana anuas, an tslí a athraíonn na dálaí, ó thaobh treochtaí fadtéarmacha agus inathraitheacht ghearrthéarmach araon. Is féidir leo na hathruithe seo i gcoinníollacha a cheangal leis na tionchair a bhíonn acu ar an gceantar.

Tá an t-eolas seo úsáideach chun an dinimic idirbhliantúil agus inbhliantúil i gCuan na Gaillimhe a thuiscint. Ligtear leis limistéir atá faoi thionchar an fhionnuisce a shainaithint, agus limistéir a bhfuil coinníollacha oiriúnacha acu maidir le strus lomadh grinnill agus fuinneamh cinéiteach d'oisrí. Is é an rud is tábhachtaí ná go n-aithnítear sna sonraí freisin réimsí a mbíonn an iomarca téamh iontu le linn na dtonn teasa.

Is ábhar imní iad na gnéithe seo go léir, toisc go méadaíonn siad básmhaireacht oisrí. Léiríonn múnla básmhaireachta a cuireadh i bhfeidhm ar na 10 mbliana de shonraí samhail ar fud Chuan na Gaillimhe ar fad gur léir gur mhéadaigh líon mór láithreacha cósta, ach ní léir, go bhfuil méadú tagtha ar líon na suíomhanna cósta, go príomha i limistéir doirteadh fionnuisce, ach, ar aghaidh ó inbhir, ní cosúil go gcuireann an teocht agus an tsalandacht le básmhaireacht oisrí. Tá samhail básmhaireachta oisrí, a ríomhann básmhaireacht bunaithe ar shalandacht, teocht agus am nochta, tógtha freisin chun léarscáil a fhorbairt den bhásmhaireacht iomlán 10 mbliana ar fud Chuan na Gaillimhe.

Is féidir an tseirbhís réamhaisnéise ar an ardán a shaincheapadh, le córas rabhaidh soilse tráchta ina léiríonn glas coinníollacha sábháilte, taispeánann oráiste gur ábhar imní beag é an riocht, agus léiríonn dearg go bhfuil na coinníollacha ina n-ábhar mór imní, bunaithe ar na tairseacha arna sainiú ag úsáideoirí deiridh aonair.





Cén tionchar atá ag CÓSTA BITHÉAGSÚLACH?

Sa ghearrthearma, le cabhair ón gcóras réamhaisnéise, is féidir le feirmeoirí oisrí i gCuan na Gaillimhe cinntí níos eolasaí a dhéanamh cé acu an láimhseáil nó nach láimhseálfaidh na hoisrí, bunaithe ar na teagmhais a d'fhéadfadh méadú ar bhásmhaireacht mar thonn teasa mhí an Mheithimh 2023.

Sa chás seo, bhí na feirmeoirí oisrí in ann a fheiceáil roimh ré go raibh an teocht ag dul suas 4-5 céim agus bhí siad in ann stop a láimhseáil agus bearta a chur i bhfeidhm chun iarracht a dhéanamh an stoc a chosaint.

Seachas tonn teasa Mheitheamh 2023, léirigh an anailís ar an tsamhail iar-chraolacháin 10 mbliana gur salandachtaí neamhghnácha íseal ba chúis le teagmhais bhásmhaireachta méadaithe roimhe seo. Tharla imeacht amháin dá leithéid i bhFeabhra agus Márta 2020 nuair a d'fhan an tsalandacht ag luachanna ísle sa chuid oirdheisceart den chuan, áit a bhfuil feirmeacha oisrí suite. A bhuí leis an tseirbhís shamhaltaithe, bhí na feirmeoirí oisrí in ann na mortlaíocht arda a tharla ag go leor suíomhanna a cheangal leis an teagmhas salandachta íseal, arbh é ba chúis leis na carnta báistí arda ag an am sin.

Úsáideann páirtithe leasmhara an tseirbhís shamhaltaithe do Chuan na Gaillimhe freisin chun éilliú baictéar drólannach a breathnaíodh ar fheirmeacha oisrí (nuair a tharlaíonn siad) a rianú siar. Bhí imeacht amháin dá leithéid ar siúl go déanach i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2024, nuair a aithníodh breallaigh éillithe ag láithreán táirgthe Chillín Aráin.

Léirigh insamhaltaí cúlranta ionchur ard abhann isteach sa chuan le linn na laethanta roimh an imeacht agus go díreach roimh an imeacht, bhí an láithreán táirgthe fós faoi thionchar na n-uiscí ag teacht ó limistéir Bhéil Oileán Caorach agus Abhainn na Coiribe.

Tá tionscadal leantach, BITHÉIREACHT-CÓSTA 2, á mhaoiniú faoin gclár céanna agus beidh sé ar siúl go dtí Iúil 2026. Is iad seo a leanas na príomhfhorbairtí: síneadh geografach le Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath, soláthar athróga bithgheiceimiceacha do Chuan na Gaillimhe agus Chuan Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus monatóireacht ar thonnta teasa mara i gCuan na Gaillimhe.



Bhí tionchair dhearfacha ollmhóra ag an tseirbhís aigéaneolaíochta gréasáin ar bhainistíocht réamhghníomhach sliogéisc i gCuan na Gaillimhe. Tá méadú tagtha ar inbhuanaitheacht an dobharshaothraithe sa réigiún agus ar an gcumas chun sceireacha oisrí dúchasacha i Lár Chuan na Gaillimhe a athchóiriú i gCuan na Gaillimhe Laistigh, faoi seach, trí réamhaisnéis a dhéanamh ar imeachtaí salandachta íseal agus ar mhapáil gnáthóga inbhuanaithe d'iarrachtaí athchóirithe oisrí dúchasacha.



Diarmuid Kelly, Ball Bunaithe & Cathaoirleach, Cuan Beo Environmental CLG



CÁS-STAIDÉAR

Ár nAigéan Comhroinnte – Comhpháirtíochtaí Taighde a Thógáil Idir Éire agus Stáit Forbraíochta na nOileán Beag (SIDS)

Tá ár nAigéan Comhroinnte mar chuid d'fhreagairt na hÉireann ar na saincheistanna comhshaoil agus socheacnamaíocha atá os comhair go leor Stát ar Oileáin Bheaga i bhForbairt (SIDS). Tá na náisiúin oileánacha seo, a bhfuil cónaí orthu le chéile do thart ar 50 milliún duine, ag déileáil le dúshlán chomhshaoil ar leith a eascraíonn as athrú aeráide agus tá siad i mbaol arduithe ar leibhéal na farraige agus imeachtaí aimsire foircneacha.

Is minic a roinneann SIDS tréithe breise lena n-áirítear daonraí beaga atá iargúlta go geografach; scaradh ó mhargai idirnáisiúnta as a dtiocfaidh costais mhéadaithe iompair; agus ualaí fiachais níos airde ná an meán. Mar gheall ar mhéideanna níos lú na talún agus críocha móra aigéin go minic, bíonn go leor SIDS ag brath go mór ar ghníomhaíochtaí eastóscacha geilleagair aigéin amhail iascach, a mbíonn tionchar ag athrú aeráide agus coinníollacha aigéin orthu féin. Cuireann na fachtóirí seo go léir le cumas laghdaithe tosaíocht a thabhairt do mhaolú an athraithe aeráide agus acmhainní a thabhairt dó agus réitigh phraiticiúla a fhorbairt.



Rannpháirtíocht pobail agus feachtais litearthachta aigéin a fhorbairt i Háití.

Tugann Ár nAigéan Comhroinnte aghaidh ar na dúshlán seo trí chomhpháirtíochtaí straitéiseacha taighde a thógáil le SIDS agus trí thaighde mara idirnáisiúnta comhoibríoch a chothú. Tá an clár á bhainistiú ag Foras na Mara agus á mhaoiniú ag Cúnamh Éireann, clár na hÉireann um fhorbairt thar lear. Cabhraíonn an clár le hÉirinn a gealltanais atá leagtha amach faoin tionscnamh Éire Domhanda a chomhlíonadh agus lena n-áirítear ár ndara straitéis do chomhpháirtíocht le SIDS.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:
2: Dúshlán Slándála Aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Bia Mara a Chomhlíonadh
3: Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht
7. Ár nEagraíocht, Tiomanta don Inbhuanaitheacht

Cad iad na cineálacha tionscadal atá ar siúl?

Forbraíodh raon leathan tionscadal faoi thrí phríomhthéama – Aigéin & Aeráid, Geilleagar Gorm Uilechuimsitheach & Inbhuanaithe, agus Beartas Muirí & Rialachas Aigéin. Áirítear ar na cineálacha tionscadal deontais Soghluasteachta agus Taistil, Scoláireachtaí Máistreachta, Comhaltachtaí Taighde, agus dámhachtainí tionscadail.

Déanann taighdeoirí ó SIDS ár dtionscadail a fhorbairt go díreach mar fhreagra ar ábhair imní áitiúla ar leith ar na hoileáin nó déantar iad a chomhdhearadh le pobal taighde na hÉireann. Soláthraíonn na tionscadail deiseanna praiticiúla oiliúna, aistriú eolais agus forbairt acmhainne. Úsáideann siad an saineolas atá fabhráithe ag Éirinn, mar oileán beag, ina hearnáil mhuirí.

I measc na dtionscadal go dtí seo tá staidéir Charbóin Ghorm i bhFidsí agus sa Bheilís; Réitigh Dúlra le haghaidh oiriúnú cósta i dTíomór Thoir; staidéir ar sceireacha coiréil agus ar bhitheagsúlacht éisc i Grenada, Palau agus Guam; tuar déine hairicín ar fud an Mhuir Chairib, agus tionscadal eolaíochta saoránach i Háití.



I mBealtaine 2024, seoladh Podchraoladh Ár nAigéin Roinnte – ag tabhairt scéalta faoi thaithí bheo ar na dúshláin chomhshaoil agus eacnamaíocha atá roimh go leor Stát Forbraíochta na nOileán Beag. Déanann gach clár podchraolta léargas domhain ar thionscadal ar leith Ár nAigéin Comhroinnte, le raon aíonna ag labhairt faoi na dúshláin agus na réitigh a bhfuiltear ag obair orthu le linn a dtionscadal.



Monatóireacht agus tomhas sceir choiréil sláintiúil in Guam.

Cén tionchar atá ag Ár nAigéan Comhroinnte?

Go dtí seo, bronnadh 19 dtionscadal agus níos mó ná 80 deontas taistil trí ghlaonna iomaíocha maoinithe ar chomhpháirtithe i 27 SIDS agus comhpháirtithe réigiúnacha. Cé nach bhfuil go leor de na tionscadail tugtha chun críche fós, tá fás soiléir, uaillmhian agus forbairt acmhainne léirithe ina gcuspóirí aonair.

Sampla sármhaith de seo is ea an chomhpháirtíocht idir Ollscoil na Beilíse agus Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, ag comh-óstaíocht do Chomhaltacht Taighde chun éiceachórais ríthábhachtacha mara mara a mhapáil.

Áirítear leis an gcomhpháirtíocht chéanna anois comhpháirtithe breise Beilíseacha agus eilimint scoláireachta Máistreachta, a thaispeánann an chaoi a bhfuil tionscadail ag tógáil acmhainne agus ag léiriú fás féinchothaithe.

Comhpháirtíocht rathúil eile idir Ollscoil Naomh Seoirse i Grenada agus Ollscoil Theicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh (ATU) a bhain an chéad mhac léinn Máistreachta Ár nAigéin Comhroinnte le MSc sa Chaomhnú Muirí Feidhmeach, bronnfaidh beirt mhac léinn eile céim in 2025. Thug na mic léinn faoi chomhpháirt mhúinte i nGaillimh sular fhorbraíodh tionscadail taighde i Grenada.

Ar an gcaoi chéanna, tá comhpháirtíochtaí taighde forbartha ag foireann tionscadail faoi stiúir na hÉireann atá lonnaithe in ATU Shligigh thar ilchamps in Ollscoil na nIndiacha Thiar a chomhcheanglaíonn oiriúnú éiceachórais agus teicneolaíochtaí digiteacha, lena n-áirítear intleacht shaorga, chun athléimneacht aeráide a fheabhsú.

Leis na cineálacha tionscadail idirghaolmhara, ildisciplíneacha seo, tugtar le chéile saineolas na gcomhpháirtithe idirnáisiúnta iolracha d'fhonn a oibriú le chéile ar réitigh phraiticiúla i leith bagairtí aeráide réigiúnacha.

Anois, tacaíonn Ár nAigéan Comhroinnte le raon leathan tionscadal atá maoinithe go díreach le comhpháirtithe taighde SIDS iolracha. Sa tslí sin tugtar an chumhacht do thaighdeoirí SIDS díriú go hiomlán ar na dúshláin shonracha taighde agus cothaíonn sé comh-mheas eatarthu féin agus a gcomhghleacaithe in Éirinn.

Áirítear leis na tionscadail seo atá maoinithe go díreach tionscadal eolaíochta saoránach in Háití, atá dírithe ar ardáin ríthábhachtacha oideachais mhara agus rannpháirtíochta pobail a thógáil.

San Aigéan Ciúin Thiar, tá Ár nAigéan Comhroinnte ag maoiniú forbairt uirlis dhigiteach inar féidir sonraí bithéagsúlachta ó oileáin iolracha a uaslódáil i bhfor-am chun cinntí bainistithe iascaigh a éascú le linn tonnta teasa mara a dhéanann dochar. Tá baint ag go leor comhpháirtithe réigiúnacha SIDS agus oileán leis an tionscadal seo, agus bainfidh gach duine acu leas as an uirlis chomhtháite sonraí-go-bhainistiú seo.

Ó 2022 i leith, tá Ár nAigéan Comhroinnte ag obair chun deireadh a chur le bacainní ar gach SIDS a bhaineann leis an deis maoinithe idirnáisiúnta seo, agus tá líon na náisiún oileánda incháilithe méadaithe ó 38 go 58. Áirítear leis seo stáit Neamh-Oifigiúla Cúnaimh Forbartha (ODA) agus Críocha Réigiúnacha áirithe, ag glacadh leis go bhfuil roinnt oileán scoite amach go dlíthiúil agus faoi mhíbhuntáiste ó rochtain ar chúnamh.

Rinneadh Deich mBliana na Náisiún Aontaithe d'Eolaíocht Aigéin don Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe a fhormheas ag Ár nAigéan Comhroinnte mar 'Ghníomh Deich mBliana Trasfhoirmitheach'. Ardaíodh próifíl an tionscadail ar an mbonn idirnáisiúnta dá réir, trí ardán a sholáthar chun fíis agus luachanna an tionscadail a chur in iúl, nascadh le líonraí taighde idirnáisiúnta, agus deiseanna maoinithe nó oiliúna a chur chun cinn agus a bhunú níos fearr laistigh de SIDS.

Mar thoradh ar an gcomhoibriú cuireadh le cúrsa oiliúna féintreoraithe ar líne sa Dhearadh Comhpháirteach, agus cruthaíodh é freisin, is dearadh a shonraíonn cur chuige i leith réiteach fadhbanna atá dírithe ar chuimsiú agus rannpháirtíocht le gach páirtí leasmhar SIDS laistigh de réimse nó fócas ar leith.

“

Déanann ár mbunachar sonraí uathoibrithe nua, a forbraíodh trí mhaoiniú Ár nAigéin Comhroinnte, measúnú tapa ar thionchair tonnta teasa mara ar sceireacha coiréil a chumasaíonn cinntí bainistíochta éifeachtacha i bhfíor-am.

”

An Dr Peter Houk, Ollamh um Sceir Coiréil agus Saotharlann Mhuirí Éiceolaíochta Iascaigh, Saotharlann Mara Ollscoil Guam

“

Tá feidhm ag mo chuid taighde ar Réitigh Dúlra-Bhunaithe agus éifeachtaí an riosca aeráide-spreagtha a bhíonn ag pobail chósta i dTíomór Thoir agus in Éirinn araon do gach Stát Forbraíochta ar Oileáin Bheaga atá ag fulaingt go díréireach mar gheall ar athrú aeráide. Leis an gclár Ár nAigéan Comhroinnte déantar an taighde ríthábhachtach seo a mhaoiniú agus cuireadh ar mo chumas freisin dá réir chun leanúint ar aghaidh le mo chuid staidéir in Éirinn agus mé ag díriú ar cheisteanna a bhaineann le m'oileán dúchais, Timor-Leste.

”

Arsenia Da Cruz, iarrthóir PhD, faoi chomh-mhaoirseacht Roinn na Tíreolaíochta in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe agus an Lárionad um Athrú Aeráide agus Bithéagsúlachta Timor-Leste



Faigh Amach níos mó -faoinár nAigéan Comhroinnte

Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 3

Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht



Tá ról ilghnéitheach ag Foras na Mara mar chomhlacht náisiúnta taighde. Eagraíocht a dhéanann taighde is ea an Institiúid, agus eagraíocht a mhaoiníonn taighde, agus, ag teacht lena sainordú, tá príomhról aici i gcomhordú, ag tacú agus ag cur chun cinn taighdeoirí mara agus taighde mara atá bunaithe in Éirinn.

Mar ghníomhaí taighde, clúdaíonn taighde an Fhorais raon leathan réimsí ar nós bainistíocht acmhainní mara, measúnuithe éiceachórais, bithéagsúlacht, seachghabháil speiceas i mbaol, géineolaíocht éisc, athrú aeráide agus a thionchar sin ar ár n-aigéan agus ár ndobharcheantair, eacnamaíocht mhuirí agus socheacnamaíocht mhuirí, sábháilteacht bia agus sláinte éisc, mapáil agus sonraí ghrinneall na farraige, cúplaí digiteacha, agus teicneolaíochtaí spáis.

Tá taighde agus nuálaíocht ríthábhachtach maidir le heolas a sholáthar a bheidh mar bhonn eolais do bheartas an rialtais, do chinnteoireacht agus d'fhorbairt earnála thar raon leathan réimsí mhuirí agus mara. Déanann Foras na Mara taighde a bhfuil tionchar aige a spreagadh, a chothú agus a thacú, ag soláthar eolais ríthábhachtach agus nuálaíochta le haghaidh beartas poiblí agus forbairt earnála.



PRÍOMH-BHUAICPHOINTÍ 2024:

Infheistíocht €14.1 milliún nua in 2024 i dTaighde Muirí

D'infheistigh Clár Cistithe Taighde Mara an Fhorais, ar ciste iomaíocht é, €14.1 milliún san iomlán (€4.7 milliún le haghaidh am loinge agus €9.4 milliún le haghaidh dámhachtainí tionscadail) thar raon glaonna agus dámhachtainí nua in 2024.

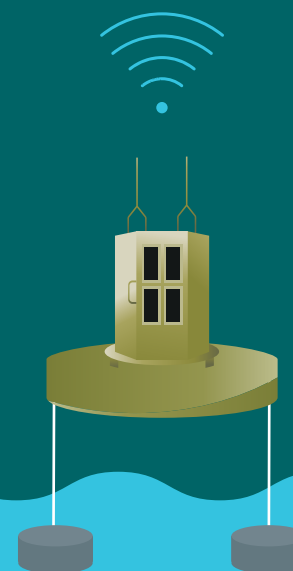
Seoladh dhá ghlaao suaitheanta rith na bliana. Gealladh €3.3 milliún san iomlán chun 10 dtionscadal a mhaoiniú faoi scéim Ghradaim Fhoras na Mara faoi Threoir an Tionscail. Cabhróidh na dámhachtainí seo le Fiontair Bheaga agus Mheánmhéide mara agus mhuirí a gcumas Taighde & Forbartha a fhorbairt agus táirgí, próisis agus Maoin Intleachtúil nua a fhorbairt.

Is príomhchlár de chuid Fhoras na Mara é seo chun tacú le forbairt eacnamaíoch laistigh dár ngeilleagar aigéin. Is iad na cuideachtaí rathúla na príomhthairbhíthe ach mothaítear tionchar freisin ag taighdeoirí in Institiúidí Ardoideachais a bhíonn i gcompháirtíocht leis na cuideachtaí seo agus a sheachadann na tionscadail agus na torthaí taighde seo.

Ba é an dara príomhghlaao a seoladh le linn 2024 ná Athrú ar Úsáid Aigéan na hÉireann: An tionchar ar ár mbitheagsúlacht agus ár n-éiceachórais mhuirí a thomhas agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh orthu, a bhfuil infheistíocht €3 milliún le haghaidh dhá dhámhachtain ag gabháil leis.

Inniúlachtaí Taighde a Fheabhsú: 610 Lá Taighde Mara Tacaithe ar Bord ár nÁrthaí Taighde Náisiúnta

Thacaigh cabhlach soithí taighde Fhoras na Mara le 610 lá de thaighde mara le linn 2024, ag freastal ar úsáideoirí inmheánacha, taighdeoirí acadúla Éireannacha, gníomhaireachtaí stáit agus comhoibritheoirí idirnáisiúnta. Chuir na soithí, RV *Celtic Explorer* agus RV *Tom Crean*, bonneagar riachtanach ar fáil chun Oibleagáidí Creata um Bhailiú Sonraí na hInstitiúide a chur i gcrích, suirbhéanna aeráide in Éirinn, an Mhuir Labrador agus an Ghraonlainn, chomh maith le bheith ag obair i dtreo críochnú léarscáil ghrinneall farraige na hÉireann (INFOMAR) agus bailiú sonraí ghrinneall na farraige nua chun tacú le huaillmhianta na hÉireann um Fhuinneamh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta.



Eolas Aigéin a Fhorbairt: Straitéis agus Comhdháil um Eolas Aigéin, 2030

D'fhorbair Foras na Mara, ag teacht lena shainordú, straitéis nua taighde agus nuálaíochta mara na hÉireann, Eolas Aigéin, 2030, i gcomhpháirtíocht le raon leathan páirtithe leasmhara.

Cuirfidh cur i bhfeidhm na straitéise thar an tréimhse 2025-2030 (chomhordaithe freisin ag Foras na Mara) chun cinn agus éascóidh sé dlúth-chomhordú agus comhar ar fud an chórais chun a chinntiú go ndéantar infheistíochtaí a bharrfheabhsú agus go ndíreofar iad ar na réimsí is tábhachtaí go straitéiseach, ag tabhairt aghaidh ar bhearnaí rithábachtacha eolais agus ag seachadadh eolais, sonraí agus fianaise chun bonn a chur faoi bheartas agus bhainistíocht mhara.

Ag comhdháil sainthiomanta i mBaile Átha Cliath i Samhain 2024 cuireadh dréacht den straitéis i láthair. D'fhreastail níos mó ná 260 duine ar an imeacht agus chuir sé fóram uathúil ar fáil le haghaidh malartú faisnéise, ag cothú sineirgí agus ag comhoibriú, agus ag aithint príomhghníomhartha eolais, taighde agus nuálaíochta chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar inbhuanaitheacht aigéin agus ar dhúshláin an gheilleagair ghóirm.



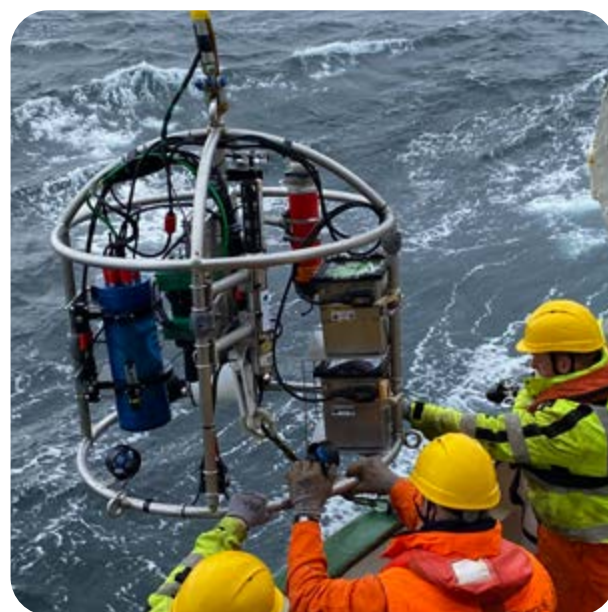
Eolas Aigéin, 2030 (féach creidmheasanna grianghraf le haghaidh sonraí).



Eolas Aigéin, 2030 (féach creidmheasanna grianghraf le haghaidh sonraí).

Breathnú ar Urlár an Aigéin a Fheabhsú: Clár ALaMo

In 2024, chomhoibrigh Foras na Mara le comhghleacaithe ón Spáinn (IEO-CSIC; ENVISAD) agus ón bPortaingéil (IPMA) chun an clár Monatóireachta ar Lander Stua an Atlantaigh (ALaMo) a fhorbairt, líonra d'eagair talún ar chostas íseal le haghaidh breathnóireacht ar ghrinneall an aigéin. Cuireann imscaradh rathúil na dtuirlingeoirí i rith turas mara AIMSIR Fhoras na Mara, i gcomhpháirtíocht le IEO agus ENVISAD, feabhas ar mhonatóireacht aigéin in uiscí na hÉireann. Tacaíonn sé seo le monatóireacht spásúil agus ama éifeachtach ar ghnáthóga muirí grinnill i Limistéir faoi Chosaint Mhuirí (MPAanna) agus tailte iascaireachta amach ó chósta na hÉireann.



Tionscadal ASTRAL um Dobharshaothrú Inbhuanaithe a Chur Chun Cinn

Le tionscadal ASTRAL, a tháinig chun deiridh in 2024, forbraíodh slabhraí táirgeachta dobharshaothraithe il-trófacha comhtháite (IMTA) do mhargaí an Atlantaigh san Eoraip, i Meiriceá Theas agus san Afraic Theas.

Mar thoradh ar an tionscadal seo arna mhaoiniú ag an AE cruthaíodh sraith lámhleabhar táirgeachta a raibh sé mar aidhm leo forbairt inbhuanaithe an dobharshaothraithe Eorpaigh a fheabhsú tuilleadh (ag comhlíonadh aidhmeanna an Mhargaidh Ghlais Eorpaigh, treoirlínte an AE um fhorbairt dobharshaothraithe inbhuanaithe, agus plean straitéiseach náisiúnta na hÉireann d'fhorbairt dobharshaothraithe inbhuanaithe 2030).

D'eagraigh Foras na Mara ceardlanna aistrithe eolais le 60-70 duine i láthair ag na Comhdhála Dobharshaothraithe Atlantacha sa Bhrasaíl (2023) agus san Afraic Theas (2024). Reáchtáladh tuilleadh imeachtaí scaipthe ag comhdhála bliantúla Chumann Dobharshaothraithe na hEorpa le linn an tionscadail.

Foras na Mara i gceannas ar Thionscadal AQUARIUS €14.5 milliún chun Taighde Mara agus Fionnuisce a éascú

Seoladh an tionscadal AQUARIUS - Seirbhís Bonneagair Taighde Uisceacha, ar tionscadal a mhairfidh ceithre bliana ar fad, chun sláinte agus cosaint ár n-aigéan uathúil, ár bhfarraigí agus ár n-éiceachórais fionnuisce - i mí an Mhárta. Soláthraíonn sé sraith an-chuimsitheach bonneagair thaighde chomhtháite atá oiriúnach chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar dhúshláin shuntasacha maidir le hinbhuanaitheacht fadtéarmach ár n-aigéan, ár bhfarraigí agus ár n-éiceachórais fionnuisce.



Claire Commings, Aodhán Fitzgerald, Bernadette Ní Chonghaile agus Frank Armstrong.



Aodhán Fitzgerald ag ócáid AQUARIUS.

Cuimseofar leis an tionscadal uile-Eorpach seo oiliúint do mhic léinn tríú leibhéal freisin, agus cuirfear na sonraí go léir a bhailítear laistigh den tionscadal isteach i mbonneagar sonraí lár na hEorpa chun bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartas agus chinnteoireacht amach anseo ar leibhéal Eorpach agus náisiúnta. Sheol AQUARIUS, arna chomhordú ag an bhfoireann Oibríochtaí Árthaí Taighde i bhForas na Mara, a chéad ghlaio ar iarratais i mí na Samhna. Tá €8.1 milliún san iomlán á thairiscint thar dhá Ghlaio Rochtana Trasnáisiúnta sa bhabhta maoinithe seo.

Iompar Muirí agus Gníomhaíochtaí Calafóirt a Dhícharbónú

Trí Oifig Forbartha Muirí na hÉireann (IMDO) bhí baint lárnach ag Foras na Mara le tionscnamh taighde a bhain le dícharbónú – tionscadal Interreg Atlantach an AE ar a dtugtar SMARDEC (Braislí Cliste um Dhícharbónú Muirí).

Cuireadh tús le hobair in 2024, ar obair atá dírithe ar chatalóg de sheirbhísí, de réitigh agus de theicneolaíochtaí atá ar fáil i réigiúin chósta an Atlantaigh a chruthú, go háirithe ó ghnólachtaí nuathionscanta agus ó FBManna, i bhfabhar dícharbónú gníomhaíochtaí muiriompair agus chalafoirt agus d’fhonn tacú le glacadh teicneolaíochtaí nua.

Maoiniú AE a Fháil: €69.6 milliún do Thaighde Mara

Déanann Foras na Mara barrfheabhsú ar rannpháirtíocht náisiúnta agus rathúlacht sa Chreatchlár Fhís na hEorpa trí raon bealaí.

Ag lárphointe an Chláir, tá €69.6 milliún tarraingthe anuas ag grúpaí taighde Éireannacha, fiontair bheaga agus mheánmhéide agus tionscail go dtí seo le haghaidh taighde mara agus muirí. Is dul chun cinn suntasach é seo i gcomparáid leis an tarraingt anuas iomlán don chlár iomlán H2020 ar fad agus €91.5 milliún agus i gcás FP7, b’ionann é agus €48 milliún).



Áis Taighde Fhoras na Mara i mBaile Uí Fhiacháin, Co. Mhaigh Eo.

CÁS-STAIDÉAR

An Clár um Thaighde Mara – ag tógáil acmhainn taighde nua agus ag tiomáint nuálaíochta in earnáil mhuirí na hÉireann

Tá Clár um Thaighde Mara Fhoras na Mara ina phríomhchuid d’fheidhm taighde na heagraíochta. Trí mhaoiniú a sholáthar do thionscadail trí ghlaonna iomaíocha, tacaíonn taighde arna mhaoiniú faoin gClár seo le fás geilleagrach inbhuanaithe, cuireann sé nuálaíocht chun cinn, cosnaíonn sé éiceachórais mhuirí, agus cuireann sé eolas ar fáil do bheartas, rialachas agus rialáil earnáil mhuirí na hÉireann.



An Dr Gerard McCarthy, Príomhthaighdeoir ar Thionscadal A4.

Déanann an Clár, atá á bhainistiú ag réimse na Seirbhíse Beartais, Faisnéise agus Taighde (PIRS) den Institiúid agus maoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann, infheistíochtaí de thart ar €8-10 milliún in aghaidh na bliana.

Ó 2014 i leith, bronnadh €80 milliún san iomlán ar raon leathan eagraíochtaí, institiúidí acadúla agus gnólachtaí. Mhaoinigh sé seo tionscadail taighde ríthábhachtacha atá ag feabhsú ár n-eolas eolaíoch agus ag soláthar réitigh ar shaincheisteanna agus ar dhúshlán san earnáil mhuirí.

Cuirtear maoiniú ar fáil ar bhealaí éagsúla lena n-áirítear:

- Dámhachtainí tionscal-threoraithe
- Dámhachtainí trealamh/infrastruchtúir
- Comhaltachtaí iardhochtúireachta
- Scoláireachtaí larchéime (Scéim Cullen)
- Dámhachtainí cumarsáide um líonrú agus taighde mara
- Taighde le haghaidh dámhachtainí beartais
- Dámhachtainí tionscadail ar scála mór
- Dámhachtainí long-ama (rochtain ar na soithí taighde náisiúnta)



- Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:
- 2: Dúshlán aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Slándála a chomhlíonadh
 - 3: Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht
 - 5. Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann

Cén tionchar atá ag an gClár Taighde Mara?

Tá anailís á déanamh ag Foras na Mara faoi láthair ar thionchair na hinfheistíochta €80 milliún tríd an gClár idir 2014 agus 2023, agus foilseofar na torthaí in 2025.

Sonraítear thíos trí thionscadal, atá mar shamplaí d’infheistíochtaí iomadúla an Chláir:

Tionscadal A4: Aigéin, Aeráid agus Athrú Atlantaigh (Aigéin, Aeráid, agus Athrú Atlantaigh)

Bronnadh €2 mhilliún ar Thionscadal A4, faoi stiúir an Dr Gerard McCarthy, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, le Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath, ó ghlaó 2018 ar an gClár Taighde Mara.

Cuireadh tús leis an tionscadal in 2019 agus tá sé le bheith críochnaithe in 2025. Tá sé ag déanamh staidéir ar athruithe i gCúrsaíocht Aisiompaithe an Atlantaigh Fhairsing (AMOC), an príomhchóras srutha aigéin san Aigéan Atlantach a bhfuil ról tábhachtach aige sa chóras aeráide. Breithníonn an tionscadal cásanna d’Éirinn freisin mar gheall ar lagú AMOC.

Tá an taighde i dtrí réimse: 1) tuiscint a fháil ar inathraitheacht an Atlantaigh agus a nasc le scairbh na hÉireann, 2) eolas ar athrú leibhéal farraige na hÉireann a chur chun cinn i gcomhthéacs an Atlantaigh, agus 3) forbairt acmhainn thuartha ar scálaí ama deich mbliana le haghaidh pleanála agus bainistíochta, a bheidh comhtháite chun tuarascálacha cuimsitheacha, dírithe ar gheallsealbhoirí a sholáthar.

Tacaíonn an maoiniú le hochtar taighdeoirí lánaimseartha (comhalta amháin, triúr mac léinn iardhoctúireachta agus ceathrar mac léinn PhD). Go dtí seo, tá 108 aschur ginte ag an tionscadal lena n-áirítear 61 foilseachán piarmheasúnaithe.

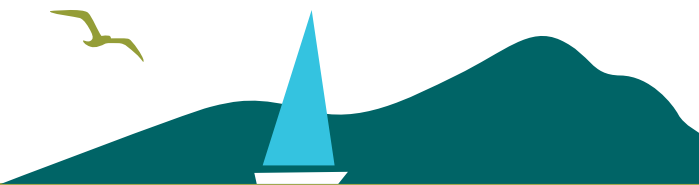
Tá taighde na foirne ar ardú leibhéal na farraige, teocht dhromchla na farraige agus minicíocht mhéadaithe na diantheagmhais aimsire (m.sh. borrrtha stoirme agus tonnta teasa mara) ag soláthar fianaise eolaíoch thábhachtach don rialtas áitiúil agus náisiúnta chun athruithe beartais a phleanáil agus a chur i bhfeidhm do dhaonra na hÉireann chun oiriúnú d’aeráid athraitheach. Táthar ag súil go dtiocfaidh níos mó tionchair ó thorthaí an taighde nuair a bheidh an tionscadal críochnaithe in 2025.

Bhí an fhoireann Tionscadal A4 le feiceáil go forleathan sna meáin lena n-áirítear agallaimh ar raidió, teilifís agus podchraoltaí e.g. *The Irish Times*, *The Journal* agus *Will Ireland Survive 2050?*, clár faisnéise de chuid RTÉ ar athrú aeráide.

An Tionscnamh Carbóin Gorm – BlueC agus Quest (an dá cheann faoi stiúir an Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath)

Sheol Foras na Mara an Tionscnamh Carbóin Gorm in 2021 chun imscrúdú breise a dhéanamh ar acmhainneacht acmhainn ghormcharbóin na hÉireann chun an t-athrú aeráide a mhaolú, ar thionchair ghníomhaíochtaí daonna agus ar athrú aeráide ar an éiceachóras tábhachtach seo, agus freisin chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar cheisteanna taighde a bhaineann le cuspóirí beartais mhuirí, aeráide, dúlra agus bithéagsúlachta na hÉireann, na hEorpa agus domhanda.

Le hinfheistíocht bhreise ón gcomh-mhaoinitheoir ón nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, is féidir dhá thionscadal a mhaoiniú ar feadh cúig bliana (ó Mheitheamh 2022 go Bealtaine 2027).



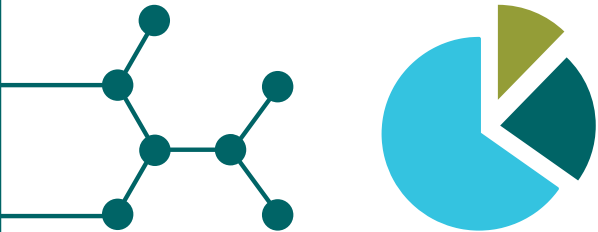
Is é an chéad cheann ná Blue C (Acmhainneacht Charbóin Ghorm na hÉireann a Fhiosrú trí Chur Chuige Eolaíochta, Socheacnamaíochta agus Reachtaíochta), comhpháirtíocht idir Coláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath (UCD), Ollscoil na Gaillimhe agus Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, le cúnamh deontais de €1.6 milliún.

Déanann an tionscadal seo measúnú ar leithlisiú carbóin ar ghnáthóga riasc goirt agus mara na hÉireann agus féachann sé le clár monatóireachta fadtéarmach a bhunú do na gnáthóga seo. Déanann sé meastóireacht freisin ar éiceachórais nua charbóin ghorma a d’fhéadfadh a bheith ann, cainníochtaíonn sé gnéithe socheacnamaíocha, bithéagsúlachta, cosanta cósta na ngnáthóg gormcharbóin seo agus féachann sé le straitéisí bainistíochta fadtéarmacha a fhorbairt do na gnáthóga seo.



An Dr Grace Cott (Gorm C) agus an Dr Mark Coughlan (Quest).

Is comhoibriú é Quest idir UCD, Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta na hIorua (comhpháirtí neamh-mhaoinithe), agus bronnadh €1 milliún air. Tá sé mar aidhm aige na stoic reatha charbóin i ndríodar a chainníochtú, ‘spotaí te’ féideartha carbóin a aithint, agus scrúdú a dhéanamh ar na bagairtí ar stóráil carbóin i ndríodar ó ghníomhaíocht dhaonna (m.sh. trálaeireacht).



Féachann sé freisin ar éifeacht hidridinimiciúil (m.sh. ó stoirmeacha méadaithe), scaoileadh meatáin in uisce éadoimhne, agus tá sé mar aidhm aige straitéisí bainistíochta fadtéarmacha a fhorbairt le haghaidh gnáthóga dríodair agus cuir chuige caighdeánaithe chun carbóin i ndríodar na hÉireann a chainníochtú.

Tacaíonn an dá infheistíocht – Blue C agus Quest – le 12 taighdeoirí lánaimseartha (cúig iardhoctúireachta, seisear mac léinn PhD agus mac léinn Máistreachta amháin). Go dtí seo, tá 38 aschur ginte ag an dá thionscadal, lena n-áirítear seacht bhfoilseachán piarmheasúnaithe. Bronnadh maoiniú freisin ar UCD le haghaidh 28 lá long faoi Chlár Long-Ama Fhoras na Mara chun suirbhéanna taighde a chríochnú do na tionscadail in 2022, 2023 agus 2024.

I measc na n-iarmhairtí breise tá an Dr Grace Cott, Príomh-Imscrúdaitheoir Blue C, le feiceáil i gclár faisnéise gairid farraige a scannánaíodh ag riasc goirt Dhoire Mhór in 2023. Craoladh é seo 15 uair ar chainéal teilifíse Euronews. Bhí an Dr Cott (BlueC) agus an Dr Anthony Gray (Quest) araon páirteach mar shaineolaithe in ullmhú Páipéar Coincheapa Aigéin PI ar Charbón Gorm. Tá an páipéar seo faofa ó shin ag Bord Bainistíochta Aigéin JPI mar Ghníomhaíocht Chomhpháirteach.

Ghiaráil an Dr Mark Coughlan (Quest) maoiniú breise ó Ionad Taighde Fhondúireacht Eolaíochta Éireann sna Geo-Eolaíochtaí Feidhmeacha (iCrag) chun an tionscadal ‘Taking Stock’ a mhaoiniú i gcomhar leis an Dr. Geertje Schuitema agus é faoi stiúir an Taighdeoir Iardhoctúireachta an Dr. Tomas Buitendijk ag UCD. Críochnaíodh an Tionscadal seo i mí Eanáir 2024, agus foilsíodh Achoimre Beartais dá bharr.

The Navigate Project

Bronnadh maoiniú ar Choláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh (Ionad MaREI, ERI agus an Scoil Dlí) in 2017 faoi ghlaó Dhlí an Aigéin agus Rialachais Mhuirí Fhoras na Mara.

Bronnadh maoiniú €800,000 agus é mar aidhm aige acmhainn náisiúnta a fhorbairt agus a neartú in Éirinn maidir le dlí na n-aigéan agus rialachas muirí. I measc na réimsí sonracha taighde bhí iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar na saincheisteanna rialachais mhuirí a thagann chun cinn d'Éirinn mar thoradh ar an mBreatimeacht (go háirithe maidir le hiascach), na roghanna maidir le beartas muirí a phromhadh ó thaobh na haeráide de amach anseo, agus deiseanna a aithint chun dul isteach i gcur chuige faoi phríomhionstraimí reachtacha muirí.

“

Chuir an maoiniú a chuir an Clár Taighde Mara ar fáil do Thionscadal A4 taighde ríthábhachtach ar fáil d'Éirinn i réimsí Scaipeadh Cealaithe Meridional an Atlantaigh (AMOC) agus ardú ar leibhéal na farraige. Is comhoibriú é an Tionscadal A4 faoi stiúir Ollscoil Mhá Nuad le Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath, ag obair go dlúth le foireann OCIS i bhForas na Mara, agus comhoibrithe idirnáisiúnta sna Stáit Aontaithe, sa Ríocht Aontaithe agus ar fud na hEorpa. Leagtar amach sa taighde a rinneadh ar athrú AMOC na ceisteanna go hidirnáisiúnta, ag doiciméadú na n-athruithe criticiúla leanúnacha, agus ag fiafraí faoi na himpleachtaí don aeráid. De réir taighde a rinneadh ar leibhéal na farraige, rinneadh na chéad staidéir fhadtéarmacha ar mheánleibhéal na farraige timpeall na hÉireann le beagnach 30 bliain anuas.

”

An Dr Gerard McCarthy, Príomhthaighdeoir an Tionscadail A4

Thacaigh an maoiniú le triúr taighdeoirí (Príomhthaighdeoir, iar-doc páirtaimseartha agus mac léinn PhD). Tháinig an tionscadal chun críche in 2023 le 199 aschur lena n-áirítear 36 foilseachán piarmheasúnaithe. Rinne foireann an tionscadail €5.7 milliún de mhaoiniú breise a ghairáil ó 2017 go 2023.

I measc na dtionchar eile tá rannpháirtíocht i gcomhdhálacha ábhartha agus i bhfóiraim forbartha beartais, páipéir chomhdhála a tháirgeadh, agus maoiniú breise taighde a fháil (go háirithe i dtionscadail ildisciplíneacha ina gcabhródh saineolas rialachais le tacú le forbairt inbhuanaithe earnálacha mara na hÉireann agus caomhnú a bithéagsúlachta).

“

De réir mar a leanann an t-éileamh earnálach ar spás muirí ag méadú agus de réir mar a fhásann acmhainneacht na hÉireann chun leas inbhuanaithe a bhaint as ár n-acmhainní muirí, éiríonn taighde i ndlí na mara agus rialachas na n-aigéan níos tábhachtaí, go háirithe toisc go gcaithfimid gealltanais idirnáisiúnta agus náisiúnta maidir leis an aeráid agus leis an mbithéagsúlacht a chomhlíonadh. Leis an maoiniú a chuir Clár Taighde Mara Fhoras na Mara ar fáil don tionscadal Navigate, bhíodhas in ann taighde a dhéanamh a chuir bonn eolais faoi bheartas ag leibhéal náisiúnta agus Eorpacha maidir leis an Breatimeacht, Limistéir Mhuirí faoi Chosaint, Pleanáil Spásúil Mhuirí, Fuinneamh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta, Dlí Comhshaoil Idirnáisiúnta, Oiriúnú d'Athrú Aeráide agus Athléimneacht Chósta.

”

An Dr Anne Marie O'Hagan, Ionad MaREI, An Institiúid Taighde Comhshaoil, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh

CÁS-STAIDÉAR

Taighde ildisciplíneach ceannródaíoch a chumasú agus todhchaí na heolaíochta muirí a chothú – tionscadal Eurofleets+.

Tá mórtionscadal arna chomhordú ag foireann Oibríochtaí na nÁrthaí Taighde i bhForas na Mara, Eurofleets+ curtha i gcrích anois. Ba é an tríú leagan é sa tionscnamh Eurofleets. Chruthaigh Eurofleets comhghuaillíocht de bhonneagar taighde mara Eorpach, agus d'éascaigh sé rochtain oscailte saor in aisce ar an mbonneagar sin chun freastal ar riachtanais athraitheacha na bpobal taighde agus tionsclaíoch.



Maidir le Foras na Mara, chabhraigh comhordú an tionscadail Eurofleets+ leis an ról comhordúcháin a dhaingniú i dtionscadal Rochtana Trasnáisiúnta arna mhaoiniú ag Fís Eorpach níos mó fós – AQUARIUS – ar cuireadh tús leis in 2024 agus a chumasaíonn rochtain ar bhonneagair taighde mara agus fionnuisce.

Bhí taighdeoirí Eorpacha agus idirnáisiúnta in ann iarratas a dhéanamh ar Eurofleets+ le haghaidh roinnt clár rochtana trí fhoirm iarratais iontrála aonair. Deonaíodh rochtain bunaithe ar fheabhas eolaíoch, a chlúdaíonn gach réimse den eolaíocht mhuirí agus a thugann tús áite do thaighde ar aigéin inbhuanaithe, ghlana agus shláintiúla. B'éigean do thograí dianchritéir incháilitheachta a chomhlíonadh agus tugadh faoi phróiseas láidir meastóireachta eolaíochta agus lóistíochta.

Tríd an gclár, cuireadh rochtain ar fáil ar fhlít leathan soithí taighde úrscothacha agus ar raon feithiclí uathrialaitheacha faoi uisce (AUVanna) agus ar Fheithiclí Cianoibrithe domhainmhara (ROVanna). Chuir sé sin ar chumas taighdeoirí, lena n-áirítear taighdeoirí luathghairme agus iad siúd ó thíortha nach bhfuil chomh feistithe sin, rochtain a fháil ar bhonneagar thar 28 cúrsáil eolaíochta maoinithe, rud a d'fhág 268 lá taighde san iomlán.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:

- 2: Dúshláin aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Slándála a chomhlíonadh
- 3: Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht
4. Claochlú an Aigéin Dhigitigh a Threorú



Eurofleets + Eolaithe IOPD cúrsála maoinithe ar bord an RV Sanna.

Bhain 315 taighdeoir as 33 náisiúntacht éagsúil tairbhe as na cláir Rochtana Trasnáisiúnta (TNA) seo. Mhaoinigh an Clár SEA (Cuir i bhfiedhm Trealamh Long-Ama agus Mara) naoi bPríomhthaighdeoir Luathghairme, agus ghlac 144 eolaí luathghairme páirt i gcláir TNA.

Rinneadh staidéar ar dhá cheann déag de phríomhdhisciplíní eolaíochta, a bhí éagsúil ó Theicneolaíochtaí Nua go Dinimic Aeráide, agus is iad an Gheolaíocht agus an Gheocheimic na disciplíní is mó a ndearnadh staidéar orthu. Bhí beagnach 60% de na cruises ildisciplíneach, agus an chuid is mó lena n-áirítear trí dhisciplín nó níos mó.

Bhí na limistéir staidéir san Atlantach Thuaidh, sa Mheánmhuir, sa Mhuir Bhailt agus áiríodh leo Sruth na Murascaille (an tAtlantach Thiar Thuaidh) agus limistéar an Oileáin Thuaidh sa Nua-Shéalainn, rud a thug rochtain ar limistéir nach raibh ar fáil roimhe seo do thaighdeoirí Eorpacha i dtionscadail roimhe seo.

Chomh maith leis na gníomhaíochtaí Rochtana Trasnáisiúnta seo, thug an tionscadal faoi chomhghníomhaíochtaí taighde i réimsí dúshlánacha agus an-ábhartha, lena n-áirítear taighde agus taiscéalaíocht dhomhain aigéin, bainistiú sonraí, agus rochtain fhíorúil amach anseo a chumasú.



Chinntigh an Beartas Sonraí Oscailte agus úsáid chóras fála sonraí an Chórais Tuairiscithe Uathoibríoch Eurofleets (EARS) go mbaileofaí os cionn 160 tacar sonraí ildisciplíneacha ar fud aigéin an domhain, rud a rachaidh chun tairbhe do thaighdeoirí amach anseo, agus a chuirfidh lucht déanta beartas ar an eolas.

Chuir Clár Oideachais agus Oiliúna Eurofleets+ deiseanna ar fáil do theicneoirí luathghairme, d'eolaithe mara agus do bhainisteoirí Bonneagair Taighde (amach anseo) agus chuidigh sé leis an gcuspóir 'Gairm a Thógáil san Fhás Gorm'.

Le linn an tionscadail, eagraíodh sé Ollscoil Ar Snámh, seacht Saotharlann Scileanna Gorma, agus Clár Intéirneachta Mara. Cuireadh 14 chúrsa aonair i bhfeidhm, ar fhreastail 19 náisiúntacht éagsúil orthu agus bhain 102 rannpháirtí san iomlán tairbhe as an gclár. Áiríodh ábhair agus acmhainní oideachais a d'eascair as na cúrsaí oiliúna i Seomra Ranga Aigéin Eurofleets+, acmhainn litearthachta aigéin ar líne atá mar phríomhoidhreacht ag an tionscnamh.

Fuair tionscadal Eurofleets+ maoiniú ó Chlár Taighde agus Nuálaíochta H2020 an AE.

Cén tionchar atá ag Eurofleets+?



AUV á imscaradh ón RV Tangaroa le linn Eurofleets + Fócas Cúrsála Maoinithe.

Mar thoradh ar rochtain a thabhairt d'eolaithe ar shoithí taighde ceannródaíocha agus ar bhonneagar muirí, tá obair thioncharach cheannródaíoch déanta ag na taighdeoirí seo. Chuir an méid a rinne siad lenár dtuiscint ar an domhan muirí, ó éiceachórais domhainfharraige go patrúin aeráide.

Mar shampla, bhí an taighde eolaíoch domhainfharraige a rinneadh ar chúrsáil taighde iMAR arna mhaoiniú ag Eurofleets+ i lár an Atlantaigh rithabhachtach i mbunú an líonra is mó de limistéir mhuirí faoi chosaint san Atlantach Thuaidh. Cuireadh an RV Pelagia ó Institiúid Ríoga Taighde Mara na hÍsiltíre ar fáil don suirbhé seo in 2021.

Tá tiomantas Eurofleets do chothú ghlúin na n-eolaithe muirí amach anseo tar éis aistriú go heolaithe luathghairme a bhfuil an t-eolas agus na scileanna is gá acu chun dul i ngleic leis na dúshláin chasta a bhaineann le taighde muirí. Chinntigh na tionscnaimh oideachais go bhfuil tallann seasta ag teacht isteach sa réimse.

Ní hamháin go bhfuil rochtain aige ar Eurofleets+ a chuaigh chun tairbhe do thaighdeoirí aonair ach cuireann sé freisin le dul chun cinn na heolaíochta agus na teicneolaíochta ar scála níos mó, le tionchar fadtéarmach.

Ba iad comhghníomhaíochtaí taighde Eurofleets+ an fórsa tiomána atá taobh thiar de nuálaíochtaí i mbainistiú sonraí, i bhforbairt trealaimh domhainfharraige, agus i straitéisí nuálacha taiscéalaíochta. Chuir na tionscnaimh seo isteach ar thaighde na n-aigéan go hairde nua, rud a chruthaíonn tuiscint níos cuimsithí ar éiceachórais chasta an aigéin.

Tá an tionscadal ailínithe le spriocanna forbartha inbhuanaithe agus creataí beartais domhanda. Tá an méid a chuireann sé le rialachas inbhuanaithe na n-aigéan rithabhachtach chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar shaincheisteanna práinneacha comhshaoil amhail an t-athrú aeráide, caomhnú muirí, agus iascach inbhuanaithe.

Ag tógáil ar a bhfuil bainte amach ag tionscadal Eurofleets+, is é an sprioc Bonneagar Taighde Eurofleets, AISBL (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif), a bhunú chun comhordú agus úsáid gníomhaíochtaí soithí taighde arna maoiniú ag an Eoraip a chur ar bhonn foirmiúil agus a fheabhsú ar leibhéal uile-Eorpach.

“

Is mór an sásamh é a fheiceáil gur chuir taiscéalaithe eolaíoch na domhainfharraige bunús láidir ar fáil chun líonra na Limistéar Muirí faoi Chosaint amach ón gcósta sna hAsóir a leathnú, rud a chinntigh caomhnú na n-éiceachóras uathúil seo do na glúnta atá le teacht.

”

An Dr Telmo Morato, Príomhthaighdeoir na Eurofleets + cúrsáil taighde iMAR maoinithe chuig lomaire an Atlantaigh Láir, i réigiún na nAsóir.



[Féach ar an bhfíseán ar YouTube](#)

Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 4

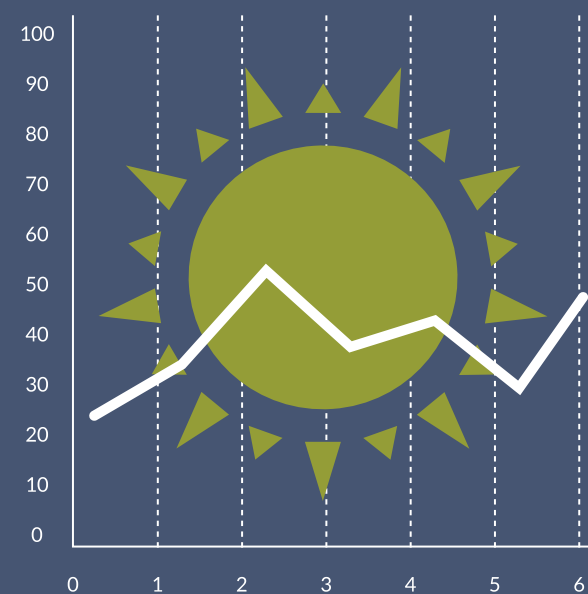
Claochlú an Aigéin Dhigitigh a Threorú



Tá ról tábhachtach ceannaireachta ag Foras na Mara maidir le sonraí muirí a bhailiú, a anailísiú agus a roinnt chun seirbhísí ríomhrialtais atá ceannródaíoch agus inrochtana go héasca a sholáthar. Cuireann sé sin le hardán náisiúnta seirbhísí digiteacha muirí atá ag éirí níos nasctha agus níos comhoibríche, agus tá acmhainní náisiúnta sonraí muirí mar bhonn taca leis, mar aon le rialachas agus slándáil láidir sonraí.

Le luas luathaithe na digiteála, tá méadú tapa tagtha ar an gcumas sonraí eolaíocha muirí a bhailiú, a phróiseáil agus a chur i bhfeidhm. Tá Foras na Mara ar thús cadhnaíochta maidir le réimse sonraí agus seirbhísí muirí digiteacha atá chun cinn agus atá inrochtana go héasca a chur ar fáil.

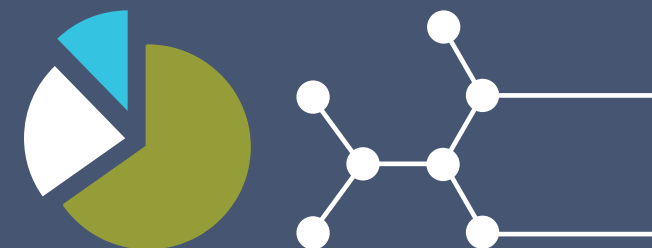
Trí theicneolaíochtaí den chéad ghlúin eile agus bealaí nua oibre a ghlacadh, tá an Institiúid ag soláthar a cuid seirbhísí ar bhealach níos éifeachtaí agus níos comhoibríche, agus ar bhealaí a fhreastalaíonn níos fearr ar riachtanais ár bpríomhchliaint agus ár bpríomhpháirtithe leasmhara.



PRÍOMH-BHUAICPHOINTÍ 2024:

Feabhas a chur ar Sheirbhísí Sonraí Fairsinge na hInstitiúide

Le huasghráduithe ar Sheirbhísí Sonraí Fhoras na Mara in 2024, bhíodas in ann rochtain gan uaim a fháil ar níos mó ná 750 tacar sonraí catalógaithe, 105 seirbhís ghréasáin nuashonraithe, agus 15 lucht féachana agus painéal téamach ar líne. Leis na huasghráduithe sin, is féidir rochtain níos éasca a fháil ar shonraí muirí náisiúnta, rud a chothaíonn sonraí oscailte agus comhroinnt faisnéise agus comhoibriú traseagraíochtúil.



Aipeanna ar Shuirbhéanna Fuaimiúla a Chur Chun Cinn

Forbraíodh aip nua le linn 2024 chun é a dhéanamh níos éasca sonraí bitheolaíocha a thaifeadadh le linn suirbhéanna fuaimiúla. Soláthraíonn na suirbhéanna seo príomhfhoinsí sonraí chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar speicis pheiligeacha.

Is é an bogearraí nua i bhfad níos iomasach agus folaíonn sé gnéithe dearbhaithe cáilíochta níos mó. Simplíonn sé comhroinnt sonraí freisin agus ionchorpraíonn sé uirlisí chun sonraí samplála géiniteacha a bhainistiú, rud atá ag éirí níos tábhachtaí do thaighde muirí.

Feasacht an Phobail ar Choinníollacha Mara a Ardú le Plaiceanna Cód MF nua Chuan na Gaillimhe.

D'fhorbair Foras na Mara, i gcomhar le Cuan Beo, plaiceanna le cóid Mearfhreagartha (MF) a suiteáladh ag 17 láthair ar fud Chuan na Gaillimhe a raibh snámhaithe agus siúlóirí cladaigh ina gcónaí iontu. Soláthraíonn na plaiceanna seo sonraí fíor-ama ar dhálaí muirí, lena n-áirítear teocht, salandacht, céimeanna taoide, agus radharcanna éan is dócha. Trí réamhaisnéisí cruinne a thairiscint d'úsáideoirí áineasa, cuireann an tionscnamh seo le sábháilteacht agus cothaíonn sé nasc níos doimhne le comhshaoil muirí.



Próisis Sonraí agus Nascacht Fhoras na Mara a Fheabhsú

Soláthraíonn Creat Bainistíochta Cáilíochta Bainistíochta Sonraí na hInstitiúide dearbhú cáilíochta agus feabhsú próisis le haghaidh níos mó ná 120 próiseas sonraí. Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar 93 de na próisis seo le bliain anuas, chun críocha feabhsú próisis agus rialú cáilíochta.

Le tacaíocht ó HEAnet, méadaíodh luasanna nascachta sonraí faoi dheich, rud a chuir ar chumas rochtain níos tapúla ar shonraí agus ar sheirbhísí Fhoras na Mara, agus feabhas suntasach a chur ar thaithí an úsáideora.

Sonraí Fuinnimh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta a Sheachadadh don Tionscal

Chuaigh Foras na Mara i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide (DECC) chun na chéad sonraí suirbhé geofisiceach taiscéalaíochta Fuinnimh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta a sheachadadh go díreach don tionscal.

Ina theannta sin, imscaradh réitigh nuálacha teileachumarsáide satailíte níos luaithe sa bhliain chun feabhas a chur ar dhearbhu cáilíochta sonraí seismeacha agus seachadadh brostaithe. Cinntíonn na dul chun cinn seo go bhfaigheann DECC agus cliaint sonraí cruinne inghníomhaithe níos tapúla ná riamh.

Muinín Geallsealbhóirí a Chothú le Creidiúnú CoreTrustSeal

Fuair Foras na Mara creidiúnú ó CoreTrustSeal dá chlár Ionad Náisiúnta Sonraí Aigéaneolaíochta (NODC), rud a fhágann nach bhfuil ach an dara stór Éireannach creidiúnaithe ag an bhForas. Is deimhniú domhanda aitheanta é CoreTrustSeal (CTS) – cuirfidh an creidiúnú tuilleadh le muinín na bpáirtithe leasmhara agus cuirfidh sé le cáil NODC mar lárionad sonraí muirí eolaíochta a aithnítear go hidirnáisiúnta, le rialachas láidir sonraí agus dearbhú cáilíochta.



CÁS-STAIDÉAR

An bonn comhtháite fianaise agus na seirbhísí digiteacha a fhorbairt do chláir mhuirí náisiúnta: lucht féachana ceadúnaithe dobharshaothraithe AQUAMIS.

Chun bonn fianaise muirí a bhaint amach, ní mór rochtain a fháil ar shonraí muirí ardchaighdeán ó réimse leathan foinsí, in éineacht leis an saineolas chun na sonraí a léirmhíniú agus iad a thiontú ina bhfaisnéis inúsáidte.

Cé gurb iad na sonraí an príomh-chomhábhar amh sa phróiseas seo, tá sé tábhachtach saineolas eolaíoch agus teicniúil a bheith ar fáil chun anailís a dhéanamh ar na sonraí agus iad a chur ar fáil mar fhaisnéis inúsáidte. Cuirtear an fhaisnéis sin i láthair ansin ar bhealaí oiriúnacha ar féidir le páirtithe leasmhara éagsúla í a thuiscint agus a úsáid ar bhealach níos fearr. Caitheann an cás-staidéar seo súil níos géire ar shampla amháin de sheirbhís faisnéise a fhaigheann tacaíocht ó Fhoras na Mara, Lucht Féachana Ceadúnaithe Dobharshaothraithe AQUAMIS, agus na tionchair a bhí acu.

Le ceithre bliana anuas, d'fhorbair Foras na Mara Lucht Féachana Ceadúnaithe Dobharshaothraithe, lena n-áirítear breathnóir príobháideach agus poiblí, chun tacú le clár AQUAMIS na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara (RTBM). Forbraíodh an lucht féachana i gcomhar le Rannóg Bainistíochta Dobharshaothraithe agus Imeall Trá na Roinne (AFMD) agus leis an Rannán Innealtóireachta Mara (MED).

Ar an iomlán, an obair a leagtar amach chun éifeachtúlacht an phróisis athbhreithnithe ar cheadúnú dobharshaothraithe a fheabhsú trí dhigitiú. Cuireann an breathnóir príobháideach cumais faisnéise agus anailíse comhroinnte ar fáil do roinnt foirne inmheánacha le haghaidh iarratais nua ar cheadúnais, agus soláthraíonn an breathnóir seachtrach faisnéis inrochtana ar shuíomhanna ceadúnaithe don phobal i gcoitinne.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:

- 3: Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht
4. Claochlú an Aigéin Dhigitigh a Threorú
5. Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann





Bhí córas níos sine le haghaidh ceadúnú do bharshaothraithe ag brath ar chóras bunachar sonraí áitiúil, agus láimhseáiltear ionadaíocht spásúil ina n-aonar de réir mar is gá. Rinne an córas nua nuachóiriú ar struchtúr na sonraí ceadúnaithe do bharshaothraithe, ag gearáil ardchórais faisnéise geografaithe (GIS), agus teicneolaíochtaí bainistithe bunachar sonraí.

Comhtháthaíonn sé tacair sonraí láidre atá dearbhaithe ó thaobh cáilíochta de, lena n-áirítear limistéir cheadúnais do bharshaothraithe, sonraí comhshaoil, agus tacú le faisnéis spásúil chomhthéacsúil ó roinnt eagraíochtaí lena n-áirítear an tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra (NPWS), an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht (DHLGH), agus an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC).

Ceadaíonn an t-ardán nuashonruithe rialta chun na nuashonruithe beartais agus sonraí is déanaí a léiriú, ag cinntiú cruinneas agus airgeadra na sonraí. Dearadh an lucht féachana nua le comhéadan atá éasca le húsáid chun tacú le húsáid ar fud roinnt foirne agus chun tacú le rochtain ar ghléasanna, lena n-áirítear soghluaiste.

Is féidir le húsáideoirí rochtain a fháil ar amharc amháin ar na sonraí reatha a theastaíonn trí chomhéadan éifeachtach nascleanúna léarscáile. Is féidir leo uirlisí analíse agus cuardaigh sonraí a úsáid freisin chun suíomhanna a aimsiú agus anailís a dhéanamh ar thionchair fhéideartha m.sh. chun leibhéal na ngníomhaíochtaí laistigh de réimse ar leith a thaispeáint, agus is féidir le húsáideoirí roghanna tuairiscithe léarscáile agus faisnéise táblacha a aschur freisin. Is féidir leis seo cabhrú leis an bhfaisnéis a úsáidtear chun cinntí a dhéanamh a chur in iúl.

Tá feabhas á chur i gcónaí ar Lucht Féachana Ceadúnaithe Dobharshaothraithe AQUAMIS. Tacaíonn nuashonrú mór in 2024, arna éascú trí dhlúthchomhoibriú idir Foras na Mara agus DAFM MED, leis an bpróiseas próiseála agus foilsithe sonraí ceadúnais atá le himscaradh go hiomlán ag an Roinn. Sa sreabhadh oibre nuashonraithe, is féidir sonraí do bharshaothraithe a iontráiltear tríd an gcóras nua RTBM a phróiseáil agus a chomhtháthú go slán sa lucht féachana gréasáin ar bhealach níos éifeachtúla.

Cén tionchar atá ag an Lucht Féachana Ceadúnaithe nua?

Chuir an obair seo seirbhís ar líne ar fáil a sholáthraíonn sonraí spásúla inrochtana, cothrom le dáta a bhaineann le gníomhaíochtaí ceadúnaithe do bharshaothraithe le faisnéis chomhthéacsúil ábhartha thábhachtach.

Tá os cionn 30 úsáideoir inmheánach gníomhach ag leagan inmheánach den lucht féachana AQUAMIS, a úsáidtear chun tacú le cinnteoireacht d'iarratais nua, ar fud fhoirne DAFM agus Foras na Mara.

Cinntíonn na feabhsuithe go gcuirtear dearcadh aonair ar na sonraí is déanaí a theastaíonn, lena n-áirítear sonraí ceadúnaithe AQUAMIS agus an fhaisnéis chomhthéacsúil bhreise ó fhoinsí éagsúla, ar fáil ar fud na bhfoirne ábhartha chun cabhrú le cinnteoireacht ábhartha. Chabhraigh sé seo freisin chun an t-am is gá chun rochtain a fháil ar shonraí chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar iarratas nua ar cheadúnú a laghdú.

Tá leagan seachtrach den lucht féachana, a thaispeánann suíomhanna do bharshaothraithe atá ceadúnaithe faoi láthair, ar fáil ar líne ag dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/ agus tá rochtain níos mó ná 4,000 uair ag breis agus 1,400 úsáideoir air in 2024.

“

Tá simpliú mór déanta ag lucht féachana ceadúnaithe AQUAMIS ar chomhroinnt agus ar rochtain ar shonraí a theastaíonn chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar iarratais ar cheadúnú urthrá. D'éirigh go han-mhaith leis an lucht féachana leis an gclár AQUAMIS, agus cabhraíonn an rochtain fheabhsaithe ar fhaisnéis leis an bpróiseas a dhéanamh níos comhtháite agus níos éifeachtúla.

”

Raphael Crowley, a chomhordaigh ionchur Rannóg Innealtóireachta Mara an DAFM don tionscadal agus atá anois ina phríomhúsáideoir ar an gcóras.



CÁS-STAIDÉAR

Digitíú breise ar thionscal muirí na hÉireann – an tionscadal Lána Trádála Idirnáisiúnta Tapa agus Slán

Tá Oifig Forbartha Muirí na hÉireann (IMDO) ag Foras na Mara ar thús cadhnaíochta maidir le deiseanna chun digitíú feabhsaithe a dhéanamh ar thionscal muirí na hÉireann, ag plé le calafoirt, tionscal, gníomhaireachtaí, údaráis rialála agus ranna Rialtais.



Cabhraíonn deiseanna digitithe le hiomaíochas, éifeachtúlacht, athléimneacht agus inbhuanaitheacht an tionscail mhuirí a chothabháil agus a fhorbairt.

Mórtionscnamh a rinneadh le déanaí is ea an tionscadal Lána Trádála Idirnáisiúnta Tapa agus Slán (IFSTL), ar cuireadh tús leis mar shraith ceardlann a d'eagraigh IMDO le calafoirt agus le tionscal agus a forbraíodh ina mhórtionscadal trí bliana arna mhaoiniú ag an tSaoráid um Chónascadh na hEorpa de chuid an AE.

Cuireadh tús leis an tionscadal IFSTL in 2020, faoi stiúir IMDO/Foras na Mara le Calafort Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Calafort Normandie mar chomhpháirtithe tionscadail. Is í an Fhrainc an comhpháirtí trádála is gaire d'Éirinn san AE agus tá sí lárnach dár nascacht le mór-roinn na hEorpa. Dá bhrí sin, tá sé rithabhachtach go bhfeidhmeoidh na conairí muirí idir Éire agus an Fhrainc chomh héifeachtach agus is féidir.

I measc an ghrúpa tionscadail níos leithne bhí Irish Ferries, Stena Line, Brittany Ferries, Dixon International Transport agus ACE Transport, a raibh baint acu go léir leis na trialacha oibriúcháin allamuigh.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:

- 3: Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht
- 4: Claochlú an Aigéin Dhigitigh a Threorú
- 5: Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann

Bhí na páirtithe leasmhara, ina raibh tionscadal, calafoirt agus gníomhaireachtaí, rithabhachtach chun treo an tionscadail a chur ar an eolas agus chun a chinntiú go ndearna sé tástáil ar chásanna agus idirghabhálacha fíor-dhomhanda ionas go bhféadfaí meastachán réalaíoch tionchair a chinneadh.

Le linn an tionscadail, d'aithin an grúpa páirtithe leasmhara scrogaill agus conas is mó a d'fhéadfadh na próisis sin tairbhe a bhaint as an digitíú.



Edel O'Connor (IMDO), Liam Lacey (IMDO), Simone Siria (Grúpa Ciorcal), Alexio Picco (Grúpa Ciorcal) agus Phillipe Deiss (Ports de Normandie) ag ócáid dheireanach IFSTL.

I measc na dtorthaí tá sraith próiseas lóistíochta IFSTL feabhsaithe agus sraith modúl bogearraí IFSTL atá ann cheana agus bailíochtaithe a úsáidfear ar bhealach Bhaile Átha Cliath go Cherbourg. Cuireadh Máistirphlean IFSTL i leataobh chun moltaí beartais a fhorbairt maidir le saothrú ar bhealaí loingseoireachta eile. Go bunúsach, treochlár a chur ar fáil chun an tionscadal a leathnú chuig calafoirt agus bealaí eile.

Tháinig an tionscadal chun críche in 2023 ach leanann a chuid oibre ar aghaidh trí chomhaltacht iardhochtúireachta arna maoiniú ag Foras na Mara san Ionad Léargais um Anailísíocht Sonraí in Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath (DCU). Cabhróidh an taighdeoir iardhochtúireachta seo leis an IMDO agus leis an Roinn Iompair treochlár a fhorbairt chun claochlú digiteach na hearnála a éascú.



Cherbourg

Cén tionchar atá ag an obair seo?

- I measc na bpríomhthionchair a tomhaiseadh i dtionscadal IFSTL bhí na nithe seo a leanas:
- Feabhsuithe ar phróisis oibriúcháin (geata agus clós) éifeachtúlacht ama
- Feabhsuithe ar leibhéal cháilíochta seirbhíse (laghdú ar amanna scuaine agus feithimh in aghaidh an truicail ag rochtain geata)
- Úsáid níos fearr a bhaint as spás clóis (laghdú ar phlódú)

Ó thaobh na hinbhuanaitheachta de, bhí laghdú ar scuainí agus ciliméadair fhoriomlána taistil, rud a laghdaigh astaíochtaí agus a chuir feabhas ar cháilíocht an aeir ag an gcríochfort.

Shainaithin an tionscadal na tairbhí eacnamaíocha agus comhshaoil araon trí chuid bheag den slabhra luacha a dhigitiú. Thug sé le fios go bhféadfadh tuilleadh tairbhí a bheith ag baint leis an digitiú breise do chalafoirt, don tionscal agus don gheilleagar ina iomláine.

Ag an am céanna leis an tionscadal, tá calafoirt na hÉireann ag déanamh a gcuid infheistíochtaí aonair féin i dteicneolaíochtaí Smart Port.

Chruthaigh an tionscadal ardán freisin do chomhoibriú ilpháirtithe leasmhara chun cabhrú le dúshlán, scrogaill agus bealach amach anseo don tionscal a aithint. Tá rannpháirtíocht leanúnach le páirtithe leasmhara tionscail agus eatarthu rithábhachtach d'éifeachtúlacht agus d'éifeachtacht líonra na hÉireann ina iomláine.

Spreagfaidh tuiscint shoiléir ar chostais agus tairbhí fadtéarmacha an digitithe cinntí infheistíochta amach anseo. Tá an taighde a fuarthas tríd an tionscadal IFSTL agus anois an obair atá á déanamh ag an taighdeoir iardhoctúireachta ag cuidiú cheana féin chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar an gceist seo.

“

Agus é ag pleanáil don todhchaí, bhain Calafort Bhaile Átha Cliath tairbhe as an mbonn taighde agus fianaise atá carntha ag an IMDO. Tá ár bhfreagairt ar dhigitiú sa tionscal muirí, soláthar cumhachta ar tír agus forbairt acmhainn calafoirt chun freastal ar éileamh amach anseo bunaithe ar obair luachmhar IMDO agus ar an tionchar a bhí ag an obair sin ar an mbeartas muirí.

”

Barry O'Connell, Príomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Calafort Bhaile Átha Cliath



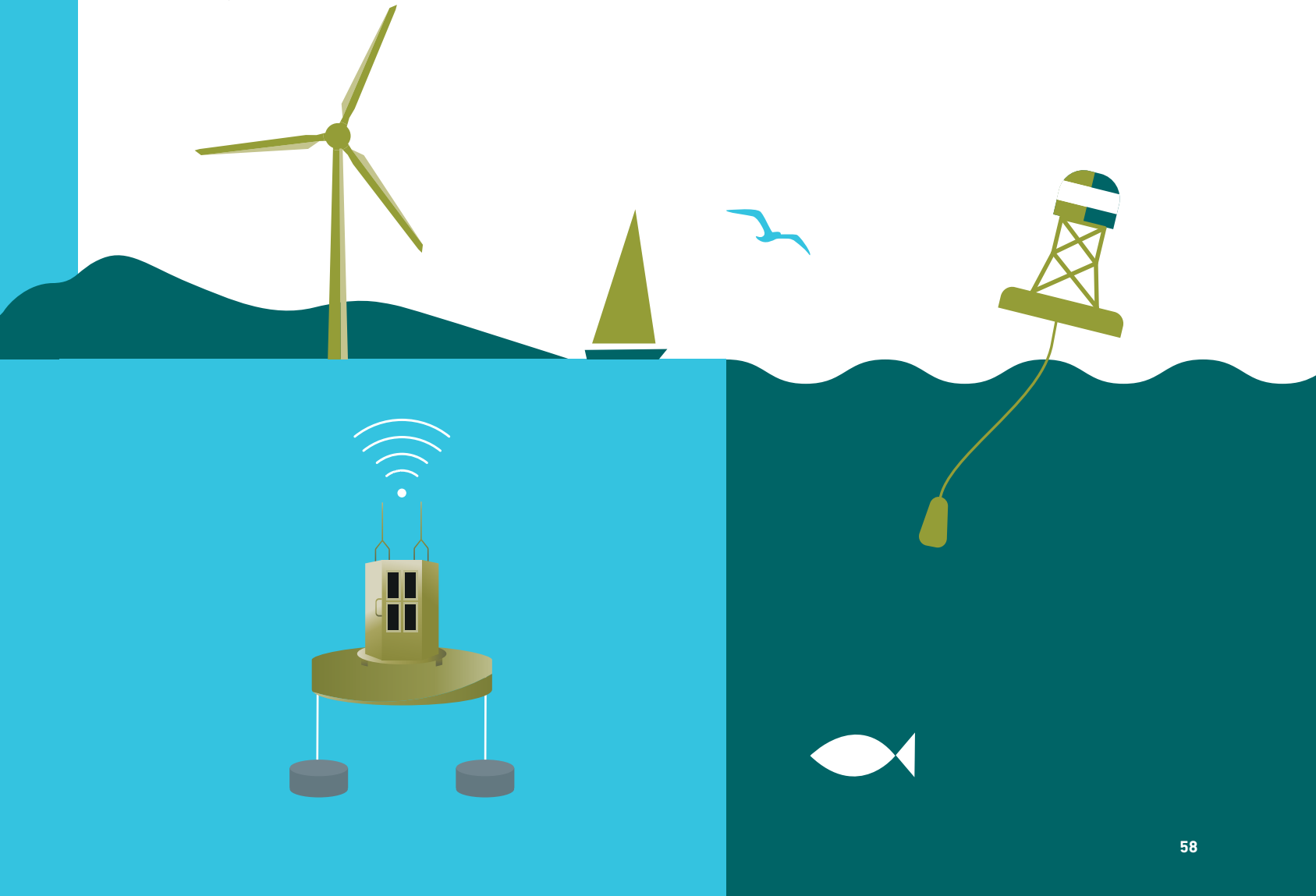
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 5
Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann



Cuimsíonn an geilleagar gorm úsáid inbhuanaithe acmhainní aigéin le haghaidh fás eacnamaíoch, slite beatha agus poist fheabhsaithe, agus sláinte éiceachóras na n-aigéan á caomhnú ag an am céanna.

Tá an geilleagar gorm ag éirí níos eolasbhunaithe, ag gearáil acmhainneacht na teicneolaíochta muirí, na sonraí, na faisnéise agus na dtáirgí agus na seirbhísí digiteacha gaolmhara. De réir mar a aistríonn an domhan chuig geilleagar atá neodrach ó thaobh na haeráide de, tá bogadh ar shiúl ó shamhlacha agus cleachtais ghnó thraidisiúnta go dtí gníomhaíochtaí nach bhfuil chomh dian ar fhuinneamh, níos inbhuanaithe agus nuair is féidir, gníomhaíochtaí 'athghiniúnacha'.

Trí sheirbhísí eolaíochta, teicniúla, eacnamaíocha agus digiteacha a sholáthar, tacaíonn Foras na Mara le geilleagar gorm inbhuanaithe a fhorbairt ar fud iliomad earnálacha muirí agus muirí, lena n-áirítear bia mara, Fuinneamh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta (ORE), agus iompar muirí.



PRÍOMH-BHUAICPHOINTÍ 2024:

Léargas a Thabhairt: Tuarascáil Gheilleagar Aigéin na hÉireann

Oibríonn Seirbhísí Faisnéise agus Taighde Beartais Fhoras na Mara (PIRS) le hOllscoil na Gaillimhe gach bliain chun nuashonrú a fhoilsiú ar 'Geilleagar Aigéin na hÉireann.' Tugadh nuashonrú i dtuarascáil 2024 ar fheidhmíocht 13 thionscal aigéanbhunaithe a chlúdaíonn bia mara, iompar, fuinneamh, déantúsaíocht, innealtóireacht, miondíol, tráchtáil agus turasóireacht. Tá an tuarascáil mar bhonn agus taca ag pleanáil spásúil mhuirí, ag soláthar creat fianaise-bhunaithe, chun cinnteoireacht agus rialachas náisiúnta a threorú.

Léirítear san fhoilseachán is déanaí seo gur bhain geilleagar aigéin na hÉireann láimhdeachas €6.5 billiún amach in 2023, rud a chuir €2.7 billiún san Oll-Bhreislúach (GVA) ar fáil agus a thacaíonn le thart ar 39,000 post. I measc na hoibre eile a rinne PIRS in 2024 ag tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na hÉireann bhí anailís dhomhain ar gheilleagar cósta na tíre, inar scrúdaíodh raon táscairí sochdhéimeagrafacha atá ríthábhachtach do bheartas agus do phleanáil.

Comhoibriú Tionscail a Chothú le Saothróirí Bradán

Thionóil Seirbhísí Comhshaoil Mara agus Sábháilteachta Bia (MEFSS) cruinnithe le cuideachtaí feirmeoireachta bradán i rith 2024 chun gnéithe ábhartha de chur i bhfeidhm an Dlí um Shláinte Ainmhithe a phlé, agus chun cumarsáid oscailte leanúnach leis an tionscal a chinntiú. Bhí na cruinnithe seo an-dearfach agus comhoibritheach.



Múnlaí Digiteacha Nua a Fhorbairt le haghaidh Sonraí Aeráide Tonn

Mar gheall ar mhéadú ar iarratais sonraí ar shonraí aeráide tonnta in uiscí na hÉireann (tiomáinte go príomha ag gníomhaíocht mhéadaithe san earnáil Fuinnimh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta), sheol Foras na Mara samhail tonn SWAN Scairbh na hÉireann. Le Crios Eacnamaíoch Eisiach na hÉireann (EEZ), tháinig an uirlis chun cinn seo in ionad mhúnla an Atlantaigh Thoir a bhí deich mbliana d'aois. Cuireann sé seo ar chumas cartlann 'Hindcast' 30 bliain (1994-2023) de shonraí tonn agus craoladh laethúil agus réamhaisnéis paraiméadair tonn, inrochtana go poiblí trí shuíomh gréasáin Fhoras na Mara.



Cuireann foilseachán Eacnamaí Muiriompair na hÉireann sonraí ríthábhachtacha tionscail ar fáil.

D'fhoilsigh Oifig Forbartha Muirí na hÉireann *Irish Maritime Transport Economist*, foinse chuimsitheach de shonraí náisiúnta tráchta muirí, trádála agus margaidh loingseoireachta domhanda. Soláthraíonn an foilseachán anailís dhomhain chúlghabhálach ar mhéideanna lasta muirí, lastaí agus méideanna lasta paisinéirí, agus is foinse luachmhar tagartha é don tionscal muirí.



Iascaigh Inbhuanaithe a Chumhachtú le Measúnuithe Stoic Eolaíochta

Trí shuirbhéanna, monatóireacht agus sampláil a dhéanamh ar ghabháil iascaireachta le linn 2024, chuir Éiceachórais Iascaigh agus Seirbhísí Comhairleacha (FEAS) Fhoras na Mara stádas stoic oibiachtúil ar fáil d'acmhainní ríthábhachtacha iascaireachta mara, ag baint úsáid as an eolaíocht is fearr dá bhfuil ar fáil. Ní féidir stádas athraitheach na stoc a chinneadh ach amháin trí fhaireachán agus gnáthphróisis chaighdeánaithe, ghnáthaimh, agus conas is fearr díriú orthu. Cuireann an obair mheasúnaithe stoic a dhéanann Foras na Mara ar chumas thionscal na hiascaireachta straitéisí a oiriúnú, fómhar a bharrfheabhsú agus inbhuanaitheacht fhadtéarmach a chinntiú, bunchloch gheilleagar gorm na hÉireann a dhaingniú.



'Shaping Maritime Education for the Future'

I bhfianaise na n-athruithe suntasacha atá ar siúl sa tionscal muirí, choimisiúnaigh agus chuir Oifig Forbartha Muirí na hÉireann (IMDO) píosa oibre i gcrích thar ceann na Roinne Iompair a raibh sé mar aidhm aige scóip a thabhairt do riachtanais oideachais agus oiliúna reatha agus amach anseo sa tionscal muirí.

Leag sé amach freisin aon bhearnaí i soláthar saineolais ábhartha a fháil amach. Bhí an píosa oibre seo thar a bheith tábhachtach maidir le clár oibre a leagan síos a chuirfear chun cinn don oiliúint mhuirí agus don oideachas muirí sa bhliain amach romhainn.



Seirbhís tástála noraivíris dea-chleachtais a sholáthar chun sábháilteacht oisrí na hÉireann a chinntiú do thomhaltóirí ar fud an domhain.

Is é noraivíreas an t-ábhar imní sábháilteachta bia is tábhachtaí a bhaineann le hoisrí a ól. Ó mhí an Mhárta 2018 i leith, chun tacú le saothróirí oisrí na hoisrí is sábháilte is féidir a tháirgeadh, tá seirbhís tástála noraivíris curtha ar fáil ag Foras na Mara, atá maoinithe ag Bord Iascaigh Mhara, do bhaill de Ghrúpa Pacálaithe Oisrí na hÉireann (IOPG) a easpórtálann oisrí ar fud an domhain.



Ó cuireadh tús leis an tseirbhís tástála, tá anailís déanta ag Foras na Mara ar thart ar 5,000 sampla do noraivíreas. Úsáideann saothróirí oisrí na sonraí seo chun pleananna bainistíochta riosca a chur ar fáil atá saincheaptha go sonrach dá limistéir táirgthe agus chun céimeanna maolaithe oiriúnacha a shainaithint chun riosca do leibhéil inghlactha a laghdú.

Tugtar "frídín urlacain geimhridh" ar noraivíreas go coitianta agus is é an chúis is coitianta le gaistreintríteas géarmhíochaine ar fud an domhain. Is féidir le hoisrí a bheith éillithe má fhástar iad i gceantair a bhfuil tionchar ag sceitheadh fuíolluisce daonna orthu. De réir a nádúir, carnann oisrí an víreas ina bhfíocháin agus nuair a itear amh iad (is gnách d'oisrí), is féidir le ráigeanna de thinneas noraivíris tarlú.

Níl aon teorainneacha dlíthiúla leagtha síos faoi láthair sa rialachán maidir le sábháilteacht bia le haghaidh noraivíreas in oisrí san Aontas Eorpach. Ina ainneoin sin, áfach, bhí Éire réamhghníomhach maidir le déileáil leis an gceist sábháilteachta bia seo.

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:

1. Ár nEolas, Ár gComhairle agus ár Seirbhísí a Athrú ó Bhonn
- 3: Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht
5. Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann



Ligeann an clár tástála noraivíris do tháirgeoirí Éireannacha na hoisrí is sábháilte agus is féidir a tháirgeadh go muiníneach agus tacaíonn sé lena n-iarachtaí táirge ardchaighdeán a aithnítear go hidirnáisiúnta a tháirgeadh do mhargaí idirnáisiúnta fógaire. Is é Foras na Mara an t-aon saotharlann ar oileán na hÉireann atá creidiúnaithe chun modh caighdeánach a aithnítear go hidirnáisiúnta a úsáid chun noraivíreas a chainníochtú in oisrí.

Thacaigh an Institiúid leis na húdaráis inniúla chomh maith le tionscal na n-oisrí chun déileáil le ráigeanna den noraivíris a bhaineann le hoisrí. Mar thoradh ar na ceachtanna a foghlaimíodh ó na ráigeanna seo agus ó thionscadail shonracha bhainistíochta riosca le feirmeoirí oisrí, tá clár bainistíochta riosca noraivíris níos leithne maoinithe ag Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) (MOU 2024 – 2028), a bhfuil tástáil noraivíris in oisrí bunúsach.

Ina theannta sin, tacaíonn an tseirbhís tástála noraivíris a chuireann an Institiúid ar fáil níos mó le himscrúdú ar theagmhais sábháilteachta bia de réir a róil mar Shaotharlann Tagartha Náisiúnta agus a Comhaontú Leibhéal Seirbhíse le hÚdarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann.



Tá an tseirbhís tástála noraivíris maoinithe ag an gCiste Eorpach Muirí agus Iascaigh (CEMI) agus ina dhiaidh sin, an Ciste Eorpach Iascaigh agus Dobharshaothraithe Muirí (EMFAF), arna riar ag BIM.

Cén tionchar atá ag an tSeirbhís Tástála Noraivíris?

Cabhraíonn an tseirbhís tástála noraivíris le táirgeoirí oisrí na hÉireann ceann de na rioscaí móra sábháilteachta bia atá os comhair na hearnála a bhainistiú agus, ar deireadh thiar, táirge sábháilte a tháirgeadh. Fágann an clár tástála go bhfuil oisrí na hÉireann níos sábháilte lena gcaitheamh ag daoine.

Tá tionchar dearfach ag an tseirbhís freisin maidir le tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na hÉireann. B'fhiú €40 milliún easpórtáil oisrí na hÉireann in 2023. Tacaíonn trádáil oisrí na hÉireann le gnólachtaí agus le deiseanna fostaíochta i bpobail tuaithe ar fud na tíre.

D'fhéadfadh tionchar tubaisteach a bheith ag eachtra tinnis bia a bhaineann le hoisrí ar ghnólachtaí aonair agus, ar bhonn níos ginearálta, ar cháil oisrí na hÉireann. Cruthaíonn an tslándáil bhreise sábháilteachta bia a sholáthraíonn an clár tástála noraivíris is mó ar domhan muinín na gcustaiméirí in oisrí na hÉireann agus tugann sé buntáiste iomaíoch do ghnólachtaí i margaí idirnáisiúnta íogaire.

Ceann de na tionchair a bhaineann leis an gclár tástála noraivíris a thabhairt isteach in 2018 ná gur gineadh sonraí an-úsáideach. Tá an tacar sonraí struchtúrtha is cuimsithí ag Foras na Mara anois le haghaidh noraivíreas san Eoraip.

Tugann sé seo léargas uathúil ar na fachtóirí riosca as a dtagann éilliú noraivíris in oisrí agus éifeachtacht cóireálacha iar-fhómhair. Chuir sonraí ón tástáil seo agus ó thionscadail ghaolmhara le roinnt foilseachán eolaíochta a mhéadaíonn eolas idirnáisiúnta ar na fachtóirí riosca a bhaineann le héilliú noraivíris in oisrí agus nósanna imeachta maolaithe féideartha.

Cabhraíonn na sonraí seo freisin le cinnteoireacht na n-údarás inniúil in Éirinn agus cuireann siad leis an bplé ar leibhéal an AE. Áirítear leis sin plé leanúnach maidir le huasteorann a thabhairt isteach ar theorainn ghhlactha do noraivíreas in oisrí i rialacháin sábháilteachta bia.

“

Ní féidir liom áibhéil a dhéanamh faoi cé chomh tábhachtach is atá na sonraí noraivíris a chuireann Foras na Mara ar fáil dúinn agus ní haon áibhéil a rá nach mbeadh ár ngnó ann faoi láthair gan rochtain a bheith againn ar an áis is mó ar domhan. Ligeann na sonraí dúinn na nósanna imeachta rialaithe is éifeachtaí is féidir a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm. Tá ár gcustaiméirí ar an eolas faoin riosca noraivíris a bhaineann le taitneamh a bhaint as oisrí amha ach tá siad ag lorg dearbhú maidir leis seo níos mó. Tugann na torthaí tástála noraivíris seachtainiúla a chuireann Foras na Mara ar fáil an mhuinín dóibh freastal ar ár n-oisrí i gcuid de na bialanna is mó le rá ar domhan. Bhí sé seo ríthábhachtach chun rochtain a fháil ar mhargaí thar lear lena n-áirítear éileamh luachmhar an Mheánoirthir agus an Chianoirthir ar bhia mara úr prémhe.

”

Kian Louët-Feisser, Stiúrthóir Bainistíochta
Carlingford Oyster Company

CÁS-STAIDÉAR

An acmhainn agus an bonneagar calafoirt cuí a chinneadh a theastaíonn chun uaillmhianta Fuinnimh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta na hÉireann a sheachadadh.

Ceann de na dúshláin is suntasaí atá roimh chalafoirt na hÉireann (agus iad siúd ar fud an domhain) is ea an ról riachtanach atá acu maidir le haistriú fuinnimh a éascú, go háirithe an ról atá acu i dtacú le feidhmiú céimneach Fuinnimh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta (ORE) chun spriocanna náisiúnta dícharbónaithe agus giniúna fuinnimh a bhaint amach. Tá Oifig Forbartha Muirí na hÉireann (IMDO) ag Foras na Mara ag cur seirbhís thábhachtach taighde agus anailíse ar fáil chun dul i ngleic leis na dúshláin seo.

Tá spriocanna uaillmhianacha ag Éirinn, atá leagtha amach ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, a bhfuil sé mar aidhm acu 5GW de ORE a imscaradh faoi 2030, 20GW faoi 2040, agus 37GW faoi 2050. Tá taighde agus anailís ríthábhachtach chun tuiscint a fháil ar éilimh bhonneagar calafoirt na hÉireann amach anseo ó earnáil ORE, chun a chinntiú go mbeidh freagairtí na gcalafoirt tráthúil, éifeachtúil agus iomaíoch.

Ag an am céanna, sheol an Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta in 2024 'Ag Cumhachtú Rathúnais - Straitéis Thionsclaíoch na hÉireann um Fhuinneamh Gaoithe Amach ón gCósta', an chéad straitéis dá leithéid in Éirinn agus straitéis ina mbeidh ról lárnach ag calafoirt freisin maidir le deiseanna sa slabhra soláthair agus fillleadh eacnamaíoch gaolmhar ar Éirinn a uasmhéadú.

Tá ról lárnach ag an IMDO i bhForas na Mara maidir leis an acmhainn agus an bonneagar calafoirt cuí a chinneadh a theastaíonn chun an bonn fianaise a sholáthar do bheartais agus straitéisí náisiúnta.



Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a raibh tionchar acu ar:

- 2: Dúshláin Slándála Aeráide, Bithéagsúlachta agus Bia Mara a Chomhlíonadh
- 3: Tionchar a Bhaint Amach le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht
5. Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann



Liam Lacey, Stiúrthóir an IMDO, ag labhairt ag Comhdháil na gCalafoirt Fuinnimh Ghlais.

Go dtí seo, tá an méid seo a leanas ag an IMDO:

- Taighde déanta atá mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag an ráiteas beartais maidir le héascú ORE i gcalafoirt tráchtála in 2021.
- Rinne sé taighde chun an t-íosacmhainn calafoirt a theastaíonn chun spriocanna ORE an Rialtais a bhaint amach a chinneadh

Tá sé faoi láthair:

- Cur leis an obair chomhairleach atá á déanamh ag an mBanc Eorpach Infheistíochta don Roinn Iompair, measúnú a dhéanamh ar éileamh acmhainne agus straitéisí maoinithe chun bonneagar calafoirt ORE a fhorbairt.
- Dul i dteagmháil leis an Roinn Iompair agus le calafoirt na hÉireann chun maoiniú a fháil ón tSaoráid um Chónascadh na hEorpa de chuid an AE agus ó mheicníochtaí maoinithe ábhartha eile do bhonneagar calafoirt ORE.

Cén tionchar atá ag an obair seo?

Cuireann obair fhairsing IMDO sa réimse seo an Roinn Iompair agus páirtithe leasmhara eile ar an eolas maidir leis na freagairtí beartais is éifeachtaí. Mhúnligh sé beartas náisiúnta maidir le bonneagar calafoirt ORE cuí a sholáthar, agus leanfaidh sé de bheith á mhúnlú, ag tráth cinniúnach ina fhorbairt, ionas gur leor freastal ar an éileamh atá ag teacht chun cinn ar an gcineál seo fuinnimh.

Tá bealaí á bpleanáil ag calafoirt chun tacú le hiompar lasta muirí atá ann cheana agus chun díonadh a dhéanamh amach anseo ar dhúshláin atá le teacht. Tá an taighde agus na léargais ón IMDO ag cabhraigh go mór leis an bpróiseas seo, ag cinntiú go léiríonn forbairt fhadtéarmach bhonneagar an calafoirt na riachtanais acmhainne a bheidh ann amach anseo do calafoirt. Cabhraíonn sé seo, ar a seal, le freastal ar éilimh ó ghnólaigh atá ann cheana féin agus iad siúd atá ag teacht chun cinn ó earnálacha nua ar nós ORE.

I ndeireadh na dála, cabhraíonn an obair seo le tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na hÉireann, fad saoil agus inmhharthanacht eacnamaíoch na sócmhainní bonneagair seo a chinntiú, agus a gcumas tacú le tionscail atá ann cheana agus atá ag teacht chun cinn amach anseo.

Chomh maith le taighde rithabhachtach a chur ar fáil le haghaidh beartais agus straitéise, tá IMDO ag obair leis an Roinn Iompair agus calafoirt chun maoiniú a dhíghlasáil ó Shaoráid um Chónascadh na hEorpa (CEF-T) an AE agus ó mheicníochtaí maoinithe eile le haghaidh bonneagar calafoirt ar féidir leo cabhrú le spriocanna ore na hÉireann agus an AE a sheachadadh.

Tá sé sin tábhachtach toisc go dteastaíonn infheistíocht mhórscaála costéifeachtach ó calafoirt chun saináiseanna a fhorbairt go tapa agus chun forbairt shóisialta agus eacnamaíoch a dhíghlasáil i moil fuinnimh réigiúnacha. Cabhraíonn na deiseanna infheistíochta seo do calafoirt leis an toradh eacnamaíoch a uasmhéadú (rud a chuireann le Geilleagar Gorm na hÉireann) agus is féidir an acmhainn is gá chun spriocanna fadtéarmacha a bhaint amach. Ar an iomlán, beidh rath níos mó ar calafoirt na hÉireann agus ar sheachadadh rathúil ORE in Éirinn mar thoradh ar na hinfheistíochtaí sin.



Cad is Fuinneamh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta ann?

Tá méideanna ollmhóra d'fhuinneamh in-athnuaite neamhshaothraithe san aigéan. Nuair a bhaintear leas astu, is féidir leo sin acmhainneacht a sholáthar d'fhás eacnamaíoch agus do chruthú post, agus foinse fuinnimh níos inbhuanaithe dár bpláinéad. Tá trí phríomhchineál Fuinnimh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta ann – **fuinneamh tonnta, fuinneamh taoide agus fuinneamh gaoithe amach ón gcósta.**



Cuairt IMDO ar Eemshaven, an Ísiltír.



Tugann forbairt ár gcríochfort coimeádán úrscothach i Rinn an Scidigh agus ár bpleananna chun imscaradh tuirbíní gaoithe amach ón gcósta a éascú fianaise ar ár gcumas agus ar ár mian gnó Chalafort Chorcaí a fhás ar mhaithe lenár bpáirtithe leasmhara agus le geilleagar na hÉireann i gcoitinne. Tacaíonn obair an IMDO lenár n-uaillmhianta. Trínár gcomhoibriú leo, d'éirigh linn le déanaí grúpa comhordaithe calafoirt a bhunú d'Fhuinneamh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta, maoiniú ón Aontas a mhealladh do thionscadail a bhfuil tábhacht straitéiseach náisiúnta ag baint leo, agus iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar na féidearthachtaí a bhaineann le comhar trasteorann chun leasanna uile-oileáin a chur chun cinn sa turasóireacht chúrsála agus i nginiúint fuinnimh amach ón gcósta.



Conor Mowlds, Príomhoifigeach Tráchtála Chalafort Chorcaí



CÁS-STAIDÉAR

Leas a bhaint as imeall gorm na hÉireann: nuálaíocht agus fás trasearnála a chumhachtú trí Líonra Tionscail Mhuirí na hÉireann.

Nascann comhthionscnamh de chuid Fhoras na Mara agus Fhiontraíocht Éireann, Líonra Tionscail Mhuirí na hÉireann (MIIN) le chéile níos mó ná 250 balleagraíocht éagsúil agus 400 páirtí leasmhar ó chuideachtaí, institiúidí taighde, eagraíochtaí stáit agus comhlachtaí rialtais.



Tugann MIIN le chéile na gnéithe iomadúla atá comhdhéanta de Mhuirí na hÉireann, rud a chuireann leis an tuiscint fhoriomlán ar cad iad cumais mhuirí na hÉireann, agus a thaispeánann 'Ciumhais Ghorm' na hÉireann.

Ar dtús, dhírigh an líonra go príomha ar earnálacha áirithe trasghearrtha agus earnálacha atá ag teacht chun cinn (teicneolaíocht mhuirí agus Fuinneamh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta). Ach tá an spéis agus an móiminteam taobh thiar den líonra tar éis fás go grúpáil ilearnálach i bhfad níos leithne, le spéis agus naisc láidre le cuideachtaí atá ag feidhmiú sa bhithgheilleagar gorm.

Toscaíocht Straitéiseach a bhfuil tionchar uirthi:
5. Ag Tacú le Geilleagar Gorm na Éireann

Cothaíonn an líonra nasc agus éascaíonn sé malartú eolais. Trí imeachtaí líonraithe ar líne agus pearsanta a eagrú, trí eolaire comhaltaí agus ardán digiteach a chur ar fáil, mhéadaigh MIIN próifíl ghnólachtaí mara na hÉireann, agus chruthaigh sé deiseanna do gheallsealbhóirí nuálaíochtaí a thaispeáint, margaí nua a fhiosrú, agus comhpháirtíochtaí a fhorbairt.

Tá deis ag Fiontair Bheaga agus Mheánmhéide (FBManna) comhoibriú le raon leathan páirtithe leasmhara amhail ollscoileanna agus gníomhaireachtaí stáit. Ag freagairt do riachtanas óna bail, dhírigh MIIN a thacaíochtaí do 2024 ar na bearnaí scileanna agus acmhainne atá san earnáil mhuirí faoi láthair. Bhí sé seo trí mheascán d'imeachtaí fíorúla, agus socrúcháin iarchéime agus tionscnaimh earcaíochta na hInstitiúide Ardoideachais-Tionscail.

Tá MIIN á chómhaoiniú trí Fhoras na Mara agus Fhiontraíocht Éireann.

Cén tionchar atá ag MIIN?

Gineann tionscail aigéin na hÉireann thart ar €6.5 billiún de láimhdeachas agus tá ranníocaíocht eacnamaíoch dhíreach €2.7 billiún acu, arna thomhas ag GVA (Tuarascáil na hÉireann maidir le Geilleagar Aigéin 2024). Cuireann Geilleagar Aigéin na hÉireann fostaíocht dhíreach ar fáil do thart ar 38,900 duine.



Léiríonn na sonraí gur réimse fáis é. Idir 2012 agus 2022, bhí méadú 48% ar láimhdeachas agus méadú 31% ar fhostaíocht i ngeilleagar aigéin na hÉireann (i luachanna ainmniúla). Tá cur síos déanta ag ECFE ar an acmhainneacht maidir le cruthú fostaíochta agus nuálaíocht amach anseo, agus an tábhacht a bhaineann le tionscail aigéanbhunaithe atá ag teacht chun cinn a bhfuil acmhainneacht ard fáis agus nuálaíochta acu. Tá na tionscail sin ag tabhairt aghaidh cheana féin ar dhúshláin amhail slándáil fuinnimh, an comhshaol, an t-athrú aeráide agus slándáil bia.



Máire Éinniú ag ócáid MIIN i gContae Mhaigh Eo.

Is léir gur earnáil thábhachtach eacnamaíochta í in Éirinn nach mór a chothú agus a spreagadh chun fás ar bhealach inbhuanaithe.

Comhlíonann obair Líonra Tionscail Mhuirí na hÉireann an riachtanas seo ar bhealach an-phragmatach. Mar thoradh ar a chur chuige, bunaithe ar chomhoibriú, comhpháirtíochtaí tionscail agus dul chun cinn teicneolaíochta a chothú, tá tionchair aige ar fud raon tionscal agus cuideachtaí, mar is léir ón iliomad teistiméireachtaí cuideachta agus an t-aiseolas ó shuirbhé MIIN 2023.

Bhí ról lárnach ag an líonra freisin maidir le cabhrú le FBManna mara na hÉireann a bheith lárnach i margaí nua (go háirithe margaí idirnáisiúnta) agus oiriúnú d'athruithe tionscail, go háirithe in earnálacha gaoithe agus fuinnimh in-athnuaite amach ón gcósta.

Mar shampla, úsáideann XOCEAN, cuideachta Éireannach a dhéanann speisialtóireacht ar shoithí dromchla neamhfheartha (USVanna), ardáin líonraithe MIIN chun dul i ngleic le margaí idirnáisiúnta, ag tairiscint a sheirbhísí bailithe sonraí aigéin do chliaint ar fud an domhain. Thacaigh infheictheacht agus naisc a cothaíodh trí MIIN le leathnú na cuideachta, lena n-áirítear a ról i dtionscadail ghaoithe amach ón gcósta i dtíortha ar nós na Ríochta Aontaithe, na hIorua agus na hAstráile.

Sampla eile de thionchar MIIN is ea Córais Mhuirí Intíre agus Chósta, a bhfuil tacaíocht an líonra gearáilte aige chun a chuid oibríochtaí a leathnú i mbonneagar fuinnimh gaoithe amach ón gcósta.

D'úsáid an chuideachta, ar a dtugtar córais pontúin a dhéanamh agus a shuiteáil, cumais líonraithe MIIN chun obair a dhaingniú sa Ríocht Aontaithe, áit ar shuiteáil sé córais múrála do shoithí aistrithe foirne a úsáidtear i bhfeirmeacha gaoithe amach ón gcósta. Chuir sé sin ar chumas na heagraíochta a gnó a scála go hidirnáisiúnta níos tapúla agus comhtháthú níos doimhne a dhéanamh sa slabhra soláthair fuinnimh in-athnuaite.

Bhí tionchar ag MIIN freisin ar uirlisí a chur ar fáil do chuideachtaí chun oibríochtaí a nuachóiriú, rochtain a fháil ar shruthanna nua maoinithe, agus teicneolaíochtaí ceannródaíocha a ghlacadh, agus naisc thrasearnálacha nua a thógáil ag an am céanna. Baineadh é seo amach trí chomhdhálacha agus seimineáir ghréasáin a dhíríonn ar nuálaíocht agus inbhuanaitheacht.

Is acmhainn ríthábhachtach é ardán digiteach MIIN, a thairgeann spás do chuideachtaí a gcuid seirbhísí, táirgí agus nuálaíochtaí a chur san áireamh. D'fhág an t-eolaire seo go raibh sé níos éasca do cheannaitheoirí idirnáisiúnta rochtain a fháil ar chumais mhuirí na hÉireann, rud a chuir dlús le scálú gnólachtaí agus a éascaíonn iontrálacha nua sa mhargadh.

Tá obair straitéiseach MIIN tar éis dul chun cinn suntasach a spreagadh in earnáil mhuirí na hÉireann, rud a chuireann na huirlisí, na hacmhainní agus na líonraí ar fáil do chuideachtaí a chaithfidh rath a bheith orthu. Bhí tionchar ag MIIN ar ról na hÉireann i nuálaíocht mhuirí a fheabhsú agus bonn a chur faoin bhfás inbhuanaithe sa gheilleagar gorm.



[Aimsigh tuilleadh faisnéise](#) faoi Líonra Tionscail Mhuirí na hÉireann

“

Is cumasóirí ríthábhachtacha comhoibrithe iad imeachtaí líonraithe MIIN ar fud speictream leathan na dtionscal muirí in Éirinn. Cuireann na rannpháirtíochtaí seo ar ár gcumas nascadh leis na páirtithe leasmhara cearta chun fás inbhuanaithe a chinntiú.

”

Liam Curran, Fiontraíocht Éireann

Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 6

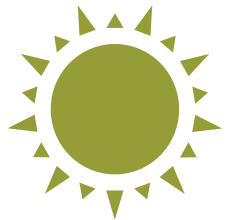
Ár nDaoine a Chumasú chun Feabhas a Sheachadadh



Ag Foras na Mara, is iad ár ndaoine an tsócmhainn is mó atá againn, agus chonaiceamar go pearsanta na tionchair a bhaineann le cur chun cinn agus infheistíocht a dhéanamh i bhforbairt ár mball foirne.

Táimid ag tógáil ionad oibre agus fórsa oibre don todhchaí; ceann atá ag athrú le cleachtais oibre athraitheacha, ionchais fostaithe agus riachtanais seirbhíse. Tá sé mar aidhm againn a bheith mar rogha fostóra, foireann den scoth a mhealladh, baill foirne atá ann cheana féin a choinneáil, agus comhshaol a chothú ina mbraitheann ár ndaoine go bhfuil tacaíocht acu, ina gcuirtear ar chumas nuáil agus paiseanta faoin obair a dhéanaimid.

Déanann Foras na Mara cumarsáid agus gníomhaíonn sé de réir ár gcomhluachanna, agus tá sé tiomanta do, agus leanfaidh sé ag infheistiú i struchtúir a sholáthraíonn rochtain agus deiseanna comhionanna do chách.



PRÍOMH-BHUAICPHOINTÍ 2024:

Léiríonn rátaí arda coinneála ár gcultúr



Lá Foirne Bhaile Uí Fhiacháin 2024

Tá ár n-eagraíocht bródúil as ráta ard coinneála foirne, le 34% dár bhfoireann ag obair linn ar feadh níos mó ná 20 bliain agus 57% ar feadh níos mó ná 10 mbliana.

Léiríonn sé seo an cultúr agus an comhshaol inár n-eagraíocht lena n-áirítear, go háirithe, ár dtiomantas d'fhoghlaím ar feadh an tsaoil agus tacú le hoideachas agus forbairt ó leibhéil fochéime go gairmiúla.

Comhionannas, Éagsúlacht agus Cuimsiú inár bhFórsa Saothair

Leanaimid lenár gClár um Chomhionannas, Éagsúlacht agus Cuimsiú a chur chun cinn, ag ceiliúradh difríochta agus ag cothú deiseanna do chách. Tá grúpa Comhionannais, Éagsúlachta agus Cuimsithe Fhoras na Mara thar a bheith gníomhach agus féachann sé le hionadaíocht a chinntiú ó gach grád foirne, ról, cúlra, grúpa seirbhíse agus suíomhanna Fhoras na Mara. Príomh-aschur do 2024 ab ea forbairt Straitéis agus Plean Gníomhaíochta Fhoras na Mara um Chomhionannas, Éagsúlacht agus Cuimsiú (EDI) (lena n-áirítear Plean Comhionannais Inscne) 2024-2027.



20 Bliain de Bharr Feabhais Trí Dhaoine Deimhniúcháin

Choinnigh an Institiúid deimhniú platanam go bródúil faoi scéim an Údaráis um Chaighdeán Náisiúnta na hÉireann (NSAI) Excellence Through People (ETP). Tá an eagraíocht creidiúnaithe don 20ú bliain as a chéile. Treisíonn an chloch mhíle seo ár seasamh mar cheannaire i mbainistiú acmhainní daonna, rannpháirtíocht foirne agus nuálaíocht.



Oibríthe Deonacha Oíche Chultúir ag Foras na Mara

Tús áite a thabhairt d'fhorbairt, tionchar domhanda a bhaint amach



Ceapadh an Dr Fiona Grant, Ceann na gClár Idirnáisiúnta ag Foras na Mara, mar Chathaoirleach ar Bhord Eorpach na Mara (EMB) in 2024.

Tá Foras na Mara tiomanta do na deiseanna foghlama agus forbartha a théann chun tairbhe go díreach do bhaill foirne ina ndul chun cinn pearsanta agus gairme, a íocann díbhinní don eagraíocht agus dár bpáirtithe leasmhara freisin. Lean foireann Fhoras na Mara ar aghaidh ag stiúradh comhoibrithe idirnáisiúnta, ag cathaoirleacht ar choistí agus grúpaí eolaíochta aigéin ardphróifíle. Ní hamháin go dtéann na ról seo chun tairbhe don phobal idirnáisiúnta agus bíonn tionchar dearfach acu ar bhonn eolais agus ar cháil dhomhanda Fhoras na Mara, ach cabhraíonn siad freisin le forbairt ghairmiúil agus phearsanta na mball foirne lena mbaineann a chur chun cinn.

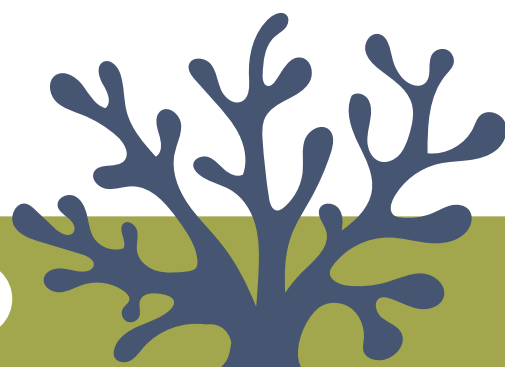


Ó Sparánacht Samhraidh go Bainisteoir Cáilíochta – Turas Ball Foirne Fhoras na Mara

Is é an tsócmhainn is mó atá ag Foras na Mara ná a mhuintir – tá an t-ádh linn go bhfuil baill foirne ardfheidhmíochta, cumasacha agus tiomanta ag obair linn.



Tá sé ríthábhachtach infheistíocht a dhéanamh inár ndaoine trí fhorbairt gairme, mar aon le hoiliúint agus foghlaim ghairmiúil. Is cuid lárnach dár gcultúr é comhshaol chuimsitheach a chruthú, ina mbraitheann daoine go bhfuil siad ag déanamh difríocht agus gur cuid d'fhoireann iad. Léiríonn turas Yvonne Bogan le Foras na Mara le 22 bliain anuas ár dtosaíocht chun Ár nDaoine a Chumasú chun Sármhaitheas a Bhaint Amach.



Toscaíocht Straitéiseach a bhfuil tionchar uirthi:
6: Ár nDaoine a Chumasú chun Sármhaitheas a Bhaint Amach

Bheith i d'eolaí

Is í Yvonne an Bainisteoir Cáilíochta, Ceannaire Foirne don Chomhshaol Mara agus Seirbhísí Sábháilteachta Bia (MEFSS) faoi láthair. Thosaigh a paisean don eolaíocht sa mheánscoil.

"Bhí múinteoir eolaíochta an-díograiseach agam agus ón gcéad lá, bhí dúil mhór agam san eolaíocht. Tar éis mo A Leibhéil, bhí an rogha an-éasca dom ar cad ba cheart dom staidéar a dhéanamh san ollscoil – eolaíocht!"

Rinne Yvonne staidéar le haghaidh BSc san Eolaíocht Anailíseach in Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn (Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh anois) áit ar chuir sí spéis sa cheantar bithocsaine. Bhain sí gradam amach don tionscadal is fearr a bhaineann le sábháilteacht bia dá tionscadal céime i mbithocsainí mara ó Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann.

Agus í ag druidim lena scrúduithe deiridh, bhí Yvonne ag smaoineamh ar na chéad chéimeanna eile a bhí aici nuair a tháinig an deis cur isteach ar chlár Sparánachta Samhraidh Fhoras na Mara in 2002. Tugann an scéim taithí phraiticiúil luachmhar do mhic léinn fochéime agus an deis foghlaim ó shaineolaithe ina réimse, thar thréimhse ocht nó dhá sheachtain déag i rith an tsamhraidh.

"Bhí mé i mo sparánaí sa Rannóg Sábháilteachta Sliogéisc – san aonad ceimice biotocsainí. Tá cuimhní agam ar an am sin ag baint an-taitneamh as an obair saotharlainne a dhéanamh mar go mbeinn ag déanamh i bhfad níos mó ar an taobh teoiriciúil de rudaí sa choláiste. Bhí sé an-tairbheach dom a bheith in ann rudaí a chur i bhfeidhm sa tsaotharlann."



"Bhí grúpa maith scoláirí ann an bhliain sin – bhí sé go hiontach aithne a chur orthu agus níor mhothaigh tú leat féin. Tá cuid den fhoireann saotharlainne a raibh mé ag obair leo ag an am sin fós anseo agus tá sé sin an-deas, a bheith i dteagmháil leis na daoine céanna. Chuir an Clár Sparánachta tús iontach le mo ghairm bheatha agus chuir sé fonn orm leanúint orm ag déanamh staidéir níos mó faoi bithocsainí mara trí PhD a dhéanamh.

Tá Yvonne ar dhuine de roinnt fostaithe san eagraíocht a tháinig isteach mar Sparánachtaí Samhraidh agus a leanann ar aghaidh ag obair ann blianta ina dhiaidh sin.

Lean an caidreamh a bhí ag Yvonne le Foras na Mara le linn a cuid staidéir agus í i mbun cuid dá cuid oibre saotharlainne sa rannóg bithocsaine. Bhí duine dá maoirseoirí PhD ina cheannaire foirne ag an am san Institiúid.

Thosaigh Yvonne ag obair i ról anailíseach eolaíochta leis an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) in 2006 agus ansin bhog sí isteach i ról eile mar bhainisteoir cáilíochta réigiúnach, a thug isteach í do na réimsí dearbhaithe cáilíochta agus bainistíochta daoine.



Dul isteach i bhForas na Mara

In 2015, d'fhógair Foras na Mara ról Bainisteoir Cáilíochta, agus chuir Yvonne isteach air agus d'éirigh leis.

Chuaigh an post i bhfeidhm orm mar gheall ar chumas eolaíoch agus teicniúil na foirne san Institiúid. Bhain mé an-taitneamh as mo chuid ama roimhe seo ag fáil eolais agus ag forbairt cumais theicniúil mar mhac léinn agus mhothaigh mé go leanfainn ar aghaidh ag foghlaim agus ag forbairt agus ag tabhairt mo thaithí dearbhaithe cáilíochta chuig MEFSS."

Deir Yvonne go raibh an ról an-oiriúnach di freisin mar gheall ar na disciplíní eolaíochta éagsúla i bhForas na Mara - gach rud ó cheimic bhithocsain go micribhitheolaíocht, eolaíocht mhóilíneach go sláinte éisc, ceimic orgánach agus neamhorgánach, agus go leor eile.

"Mar gheall ar dhul ag obair sna réimsí éagsúla eolaíochta seo, bíonn mo phost éagsúil agus ag athrú i gcónaí," a deir sí. "Agus an taithí a bhí agam ar bheith ag obair sa tsaotharlann níos luaithe i mo ghairm bheatha, rinne sé níos éasca mar Bhainisteoir Cáilíochta tuiscint a fháil ar an obair a tharlaíonn ar leibhéal praiticiúil."

Mar Bhainisteoir Cáilíochta, Ceannaire Foirne do MEFSS, baineann ról Yvonne le raon leathan réimsí lena n-áirítear an clár iniúchóireachta don chóras cáilíochta a bhainistiú agus a chomhordú, athbhreithnithe agus nuashonruithe ar nósanna imeachta oibriúcháin caighdeánacha a bhainistiú, maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar an gclár bainistíochta riosca agus feabhsuithe do MEFSS, agus na rannóga sa chóras cáilíochta a chomhchuihbhiú.

Déanann sí cruinnithe córais ardchaighdeáin a mheas freisin agus cinntíonn sí go bhfuil an córas cáilíochta foriomlán ag feabhsú i gcónaí. Áirítear le ról Yvonne ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar Fhoras na Mara i gcomhráite le comhlachtaí creidiúnaithe, iniúcháirí agus custaiméirí, agus a chinntiú go gcuirtear aon nuashonruithe ar bheartais agus nósanna imeachta creidiúnaithe i bhfeidhm sa chóras cáilíochta.

"Is breá liom an taobh bainistíochta de mo ról, agus tá baint agam fós leis an eolaíocht - tá an chuid is fearr den dá shaol agam," a deir sí. "Is cinnte gur fiú an post mar gheall ar an idirghníomhú agus an rannpháirtíocht le mo chomhghleacaithe, ag mothú go dtacaítear leo, agus go gcuirtear ar a gcumas leanúint ar aghaidh ag foghlaim agus ag fás."

Foghlaim agus forbairt

Deir Yvonne gur spreagadh í le forbairt mar bhainisteoir agus mar cheannaire, agus toisc go bhfuil sí in ann leas a bhaint as cúrsaí breisoideachais, tá deis aici a cuid scileanna a fhorbairt sa réimse seo. Agus tá sí tar éis a mothú mar bhall luachmhar den eagraíocht.

"Tríd an Institiúid, chríochnaigh mé 'Forbairt Ceannaireachta do Mhná' in Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath in 2019 agus tugadh tacaíocht dom Ard-Diplóma i gCóitseáil Phearsanta, Cheannaireachta agus Feidhmiúcháin a chur i gcrích ó 2019 go 2020 le Coláiste Kingstown, agus is dócha gurb é sin an rud is fearr a rinne mé riamh. Cúrsa an-mhaith a bhí ann. Bainim úsáid anois as an stíl cheannaireachta cóitseála seo i mo phost reatha agus bím ag cóitseáil daoine san Institiúid gach bliain, le tacaíocht ón bhfoireann Acmhainní Daonna.

Mar thoradh ar an infheistíocht seo san oiliúint agus sa taithí, tá Yvonne ag obair go deonach mar mheantóir ar Thionscnamh Forbartha Ceannaireachta Aurora do Mhná.

"Bíonn deiseanna ann i gcónaí breisoiliúint a chur ar chúrsaí san Institiúid. Is dóigh liom, mar eolaí, go mbíonn grá na foghlama ann dom i gcónaí. Ina theannta sin, iarradh orm cathaoirleacht a dhéanamh ar fhoireann maitrís na Príomhtháscairí Feidhmíochta chun straitéis Fhoras na Mara a chur i bhfeidhm in 2020. Bhain an ról seo le gach cuid den eagraíocht, mar sin bhuail mé le daoine nua agus thug sé léargas luachmhar dom ar na réimsí eile oibre san Institiúid."

In 2022, ghlac Yvonne sos gairme dhá bhliain óna ról.

"Sílim, ag teacht amach as Covid, go ndearna mé athmhachnamh ar an áit a raibh mé tar éis seacht mbliana sa ról," a deir sí. "Chonaic mé post le Bord Náisiúnta na hÉireann um Chreidiúnú mar Leas-Bhainisteoir air agus shíl mé 'Tá na scileanna agam don phost seo, tá dúil mhór agam níos mó a fhoghlaim' agus shocraigh mé dul chuige. Bhí an Institiúid ag tacú liom an sos gairme a ghlacadh a bhí go hiontach mar bhí a fhios agam nach raibh mé ag iarraidh mo phost a thabhairt suas anseo.

Deir Yvonne gur foghlaim sí go leor le linn a tréimhse sa ról nua agus go raibh baint mhór aici le cur i bhfeidhm na straitéise.

"Ba mhór an rud é filleadh ar an Institiúid agus baint a bheith agam leis an ngné eolaíochta de mo phost... táim an-sásta a bheith ar ais. Sílim go mbíonn an deis agat, am ar bith, scileanna nua a fhoghlaim agus a fhorbairt, cibé an oiliúint nó réimse nua oibre atá i gceist, go bhfuil sé tairbheach ní amháin duitse ach don eagraíocht freisin."

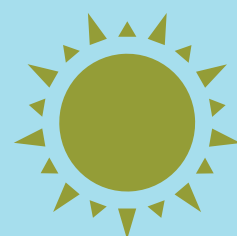
Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 7

Ár nEagraíocht, Tiomanta don Inbhuanaitheacht



Tá an inbhuanaitheacht ag croílár an chaoi a n-oibríonn Foras na Mara agus is treoirphrionsabal í dár n-eagraíocht. Táimid tiomanta do chion dearfach a dhéanamh don tsochaí agus do chaomhnú an chomhshaoil.

Conas is féidir linn an gealltanas sin a chomhlíonadh? Trí chláir, tionscadail agus seirbhísí ardtionchair a shainaithint, iad a chur i gcrích go beacht, agus torthaí intomhaiste a rianú agus a thuairisciú go dian, tiomáinimid athrú bríoch.



CÁS-STAIDÉAR

Éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh Fhoras na Mara a fheabhsú agus a bhainistiú agus a chuid oibríochtaí a dhícharbónú.

Ceann de thosaíochtaí straitéiseacha Fhoras na Mara mar eagraíocht is ea tiomantas a thabhairt don inbhuanaitheacht. Is breithniú suntasach é dár dtaighde, dár gcomhairle eolaíoch agus dár seirbhísí forbartha eacnamaíche. Is gné bhunúsach í an inbhuanaitheacht freisin sa chaoi a n-oibrímid ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár mbonneagar.



Tacaíonn an Sainordú um Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide 2024 le comhlachtaí san earnáil phoiblí lena n-áirítear Foras na Mara chun dea-shampla a thabhairt maidir le gníomhú ar son na haeráide. Tá sé mar aidhm aige an gníomhú riachtanach ar son na haeráide a spreagadh sa tsochaí i gcoitinne chun astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa (GCT) na hÉireann a laghdú 51% agus éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a laghdú 50%, faoi 2030 aron.

Oibríonn Foras na Mara i dtreo na spriocanna rialtais seo, agus ag an am céanna leanann siad ar aghaidh ag tabhairt faoi phríomhchláir taighde náisiúnta agus ag seachadadh seirbhísí dár gcliaint agus dár bpáirtithe leasmhara a bhaineann le húsáid inbhuanaithe ár n-acmhainní mairí.



Toscaíocht Straitéiseach a bhfuil tionchar uirthi:
7. Ár nEagraíocht, Tiomanta don Inbhuanaitheacht





Baill foirne ón Aonad Bitheolaíochta Móilíneach (Aonad Stáinte Éisc & Micribhitheolaíocht Sliogéisc) agus Foireann Fíteaplanctón (Sábháilteacht Sliogéisc) le deimhniú 'My Green Lab'.

Cad atá á dhéanamh againn?

Táimid ag dícharbónú ár mbonneagar agus ár dtrealamh, ag baint úsáid as foinsí fuinnimh in-athnuaite, ar nós cumhacht gréine dár bhfoirgnimh agus ionstraimíocht mhuirí. Táimid ag laghdú freisin ár spleáchas ar bhreoslaí iontaise agus, ina ionad sin, úsáid a bhaint as teicneolaíochtaí in-athnuaite, nuair is féidir, chun ár soithí taighde, ár bhfoirgnimh agus ár bhfeithiclí a chumhachtú.

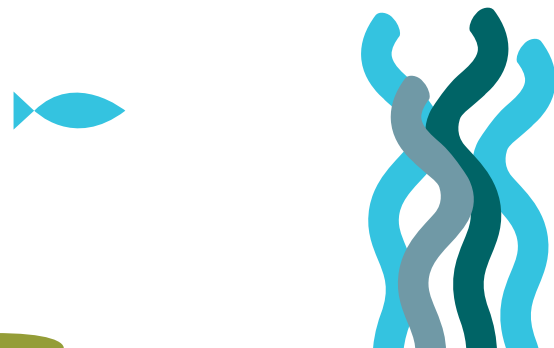
Tá fuinneamh in-athnuaite ar an láthair á ghiniúint ag an Institiúid anois tar éis dhá chóras dín PV gréine a shuiteáil in 2023. Suiteáladh 783 painéal, a tháirgeann suas le 291,611 kWh leictreachais in aghaidh na bliana i gceanncheathrú Órán Mór i gContae na Gaillimhe, agus suiteáladh córas painéil 76 níos lú, a tháirgeann c. 29,395 kWh in aghaidh na bliana, in Áis Taighde Bhaile Uí Fhiacháin i gContae Mhaigh Eo.

Ós rud é gurb ionann na soithí taighde agus thart ar 81% den fhuinneamh iomlán a ídionn an Institiúid, tá sé ríthábhachtach go n-oibríonn siad chomh héifeachtach agus chomh hinbhuanaithe agus is féidir. Tar éis triail rathúil in 2023 in áit Ola Gháis Mhuirí le hOla Glasraí Hidreachóireáilte (HVO) mar bhreosla malartach níos glaise, d'úsáid na soithí, in 2024, suas le 35% HVO mar chuid de sholáthar breosla na soithí. Is bithbhreosla í sealcharbóin é HVO a fheidhmíonn in ionad breoslaí iontaise.

I measc na dtionscadal éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh eile a bhaineann le foirgnimh le déanaí tá uasghrádú coire ag Órán Mór, uasghrádú soilsihte LED ar fud fhoirgnimh Órán Mór agus Bhaile Uí Fhiacháin, agus uasghráduithe aerchóirithe in Órán Mór (le rialú láraithe chun riachtanais Threoir an AE maidir le Feidhmíocht Fuinnimh Foirgneamh a chomhlíonadh).

Laghdaíonn clár deimhniúcháin 'My Green Lab' Fhoras na Mara tionchar comhshaoil saotharlanna i gceithre phríomhréimse – fuinneamh, uisce, dramhaíl agus úsáid cheimiceach – trí mheascán de ghníomhaíochtaí eagraíochtúla agus de chlár athraithe iompair. Tá teastas bainte amach ag ceithre fhoireann san Institiúid tríd an gclár go dtí seo agus tá níos mó réimsí ar siúl.

Áirítear le bearta inbhuanaitheachta traseagraíochta digitíúil ár bpróisis riaracháin a mhéadú (úsáid páipéir a laghdú ar an gcaoi sin), scor d'earraí aon úsáide nuair is féidir, caomhnú uisce, agus dramhaíl bia a laghdú. Leanann foirne 'Get Greener' san Institiúid ag cur éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh agus athrú iompraíochta chun cinn trí iniúchtaí agus feachtais feasachta.



Cén tionchar atá ag an obair seo?

Cuireadh tús leis an gclár laghdaithe fuinnimh in 2016, ag díriú ar cheanncheathrú Órán Mór ar dtús ach leathnaíodh é go tapa chun na soithí taighde agus oibríochtaí Shaoráid Taighde Bhaile Uí Fhiacháin a chur san áireamh. Leathnaíodh fócas an chlár chun inbhuanaitheacht agus bithéagsúlacht a chur san áireamh, mar aon le laghdú fuinnimh.

Ó cuireadh tús leis an gclár, tá coigiltí suntasacha déanta inár bhfoirgnimh – ag laghdú an úsáid a bhainimid as leictreachas, agus an úsáid a bhainimid as Gás Peitríliam Leachtaithe agus Ceirisín (a úsáidtear le haghaidh téimh araon).

Sonraítear sa Treochlár is déanaí ó Fhoras na Mara um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide (2024) an chaoi ar laghdaigh saoráid Órán Mór na hInstitiúide a tomhaltas fuinnimh faoi 41% (Márta 2024), i gcomparáid le bonnlíne 2015.

Le haghaidh 2023, tháinig déine fuinnimh na hInstitiúide isteach ag 221 kWh / m², ag tabhairt le fios go bhfuil foirgneamh Órán Mór níos fearr ná foirgneamh diantaighde den chineál céanna (Tagairt: AUDE Benchmarking Ich. 93, *Tuairisc AUDE EMR 2023 DPS*).

Tá tionchar na bpainéal gréine nua a suiteáladh in Órán Mór agus i mBaile Uí Fhiacháin léirithe cheana féin – táirgeadh toradh iomlán 253.15 MW leictreachais ó Eanáir go Nollaig 2024 do na foirgnimh, rud a laghdaíonn spleáchas na hInstitiúide ar leictreachas eangaí.

Ina theannta sin, onnmhairíodh 9,672 kW chuig an eangach ó chóras Baile Uí Fhiacháin (Eanáir - Nollaig 2024). Is toradh suntasach dár gclár éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh é a bheith in ann ár bhfarasbarr fuinnimh agus easpórtála féin a ghiniúint ar ais chuig an eangach.

Léiríonn timthriall Monatóireachta agus Tuairiscithe ÚFIÉ 2023 go bhfuil éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh fhoriomlán de 39.7% (2023 i gcomparáid le 2009) feicthe ag an Institiúid. Tá laghdú 313,455 kgCO₂ (2023) tagtha ar na hastaíochtaí iomlána agus meastar go sáróidh siad an sprioc 51% CO₂ faoi 2030.

Éist anseo

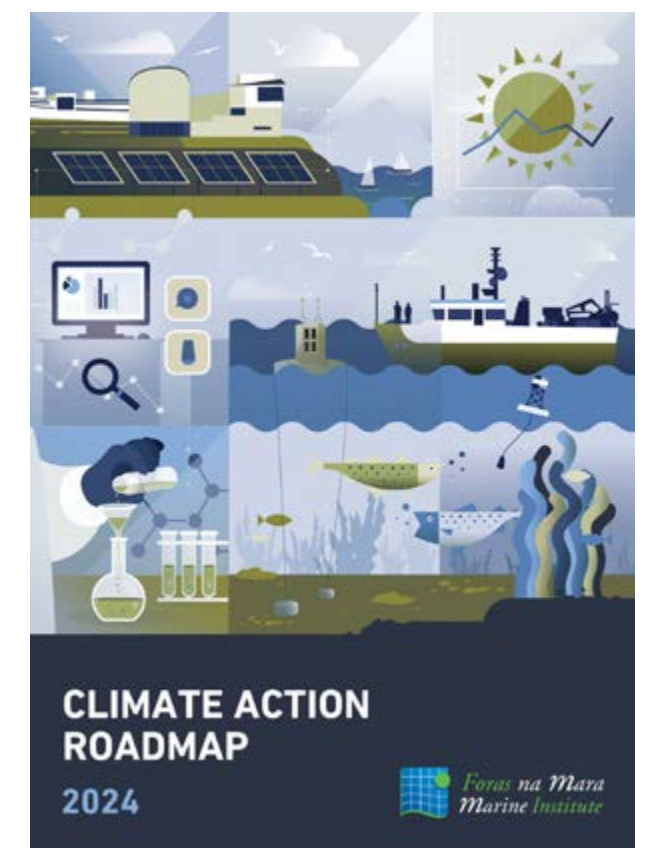
Bhí Jane Kilcoyne, atá ina ceimiceoir anailíseach le Foras na Mara, le feiceáil ar an bpodchraoladh móréilimh *Nature* i Meán Fómhair 2024. Déanann sí cur síos ar an gcaoi ar laghdaigh sí féin agus comhghleacaithe lorg carbóin na saotharlainne monatóireachta bithocsainí muirí (lena n-áirítear ídiú fuinnimh a laghdú, múiríniú a dhéanamh ar dhramhaíl sliogéisc, athchúrsáil polaistireín, doiciméadú a dhigitiú agus go leor eile).



[Éist anseo](#)

An raibh a fhios agat?

Foilsíonn Foras na Mara Treochlár bliantúil um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide ina dtugtar breac-chuntas agus tomhas ar ár gcuid oibre chun éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a fheabhsú, ár n-oibríochtaí a dhícharbónú agus iarracht a dhéanamh inbhuanaitheacht mhéadaithe a bhaint amach mar eagraíocht.



Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 8

Ár nGeallsealbhóirí agus ár Sochaí a Spreagadh



In 2024, lean Foras na Mara ar aghaidh ag spreagadh páirtithe leasmhara agus na sochaí trí shraith tionscnamh agus comhoibrithe a raibh tionchar acu orthu.

Trí chláir oideachais agus feachtais for-rochtana poiblí a eagrú, ní hamháin go n-ardaíonn an Institiúid feasacht faoin ról ríthábhachtach atá ag an aigéan i ngeilleagar agus i gcultúr na hÉireann ach spreagann sí saoránaigh chun páirt ghníomhach a ghlacadh in iarrachtaí caomhnaithe mara.

Trí na hiarrachtaí seo, spreagann Foras na Mara pobail agus cuireann sé le húsáid inbhuanaithe acmhainní aigéin.

PRÍOMH-BHUAICPHOINTÍ 2024:

Oidhreacht Mhuirí Shaibhir na hÉireann a Cheiliúradh – 'Eolaíocht na Mara – Eolaíocht na Mara'

Mar thoradh ar chomhpháirtíocht idir Foras na Mara agus Músaem Chiarraí Thiar cruthaíodh agus osclaíodh 'Eolaíocht na Mara – Sea Science' ag Músaem Chorca Dhuibhne – Músaem Chiarraí Thiar. Taispeánann an taispeántas nua seo oidhreacht mhuirí shaibhir na hÉireann, acmhainn mhuirí éagsúil, agus ról na hInstitiúide i dtaighde mara.

Cuireann an comhoibriú nua seo leis an taispeántas 'The Wild Atlantic – Sea Science' de chuid Fhoras na Mara ag Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe, a d'aithin Gradam Rogha Taistealaithe 2024 de chuid Trip Advisor don Díol Spéise do Thurasóirí is Fearr in Éirinn. In 2024, bhain níos mó ná 100,000 cuairteoir taitneamh as an taispeántas saor in aisce.

Tugann taispeántais an mhúsaeim seo cuireadh do chuireoirí tumadh faoi thonnta Atlantach fiáin na hÉireann agus ár n-aigéan a iniúchadh trí thaispeántais idirghníomhacha agus taispeántais dhigiteacha. Cabhraíonn siad le turasóireacht a mhealladh, le meas an phobail ar thimpeallacht mhuirí na hÉireann a dhoimhniú, agus cothaíonn siad nasc na bpobal áitiúil leis an bhfarraige.



Lucht Déanta Beartas Náisiúnta agus Toscaireachtaí Idirnáisiúnta a óstáil

Le linn 2024, chuir Foras na Mara fáilte roimh lucht déanta beartas náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta, taighdeoirí, eolaithe agus toscaireachtaí eile chuig ár láithreáin agus ar bord ár soithí taighde.



Ambasadóir na hÍsiltíre chun na hÉireann, Maaïke van Koldam, agus POF Fhoras na Mara, an Dr Rick Officer.



Ambasadóir na Fraince chun na hÉireann, Vincent Guérend, le Príomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Fhoras na Mara, an Dr. Rick Officer, agus Captaen an RV *Tom Crean*, Colin McBrearty.

Chuir na cuairteanna seo béim ar cheannaireacht na hÉireann san eolaíocht mhuirí agus san inbhuanaitheacht mhuirí agus bhí comhoibriú nua mar thoradh orthu i réimsí amhail breathnóireacht aigéin agus athrú aeráide. Trí na hiarrachtaí sin, dhaingnigh Foras na Mara a ról mar cheannaire i dtaighde mhuirí, nuálaíocht agus comhar domhanda, ag spreagadh páirtithe leasmhara chun infheistíocht a dhéanamh i dtodhchaí an aigéin agus an tsochaí a spreagadh chun dul i ngleic le caomhnú na mara.

Rath na hOíche Cultúir ag Foras na Mara

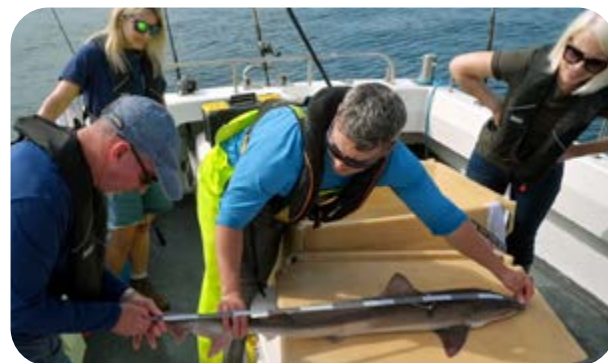
Tháinig Oíche Chultúir go Foras na Mara den chéad uair i Meán Fómhair 2024. Mar chuid den ócáid a bhí faoi choimeád speisialta, bhí léirithe cultúrtha bríomhara, scéalaíocht thumtha, ceol faoi chuing a spreag an fharraige, agus taispeántais ealaíne éagsúla.



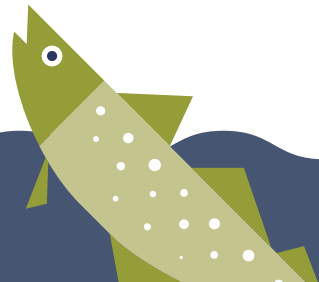
Léirigh an clár an caidreamh as cuimse atá ag Éirinn lena comhshaol mhuirí agus an chaoi a bhfuil sí básaithe trí na healaíona. D'éirigh go hiontach leis an Oíche Chultúir san Institiúid, rud a thug lucht féachana éagsúil le chéile, idir theaghlaigh agus dhíograiseoirí mara, ag ceiliúradh comhleá d'eolaíocht agus de chultúr na mara.

Gnéithe Oibre Fhoras na Mara ar Theilifís Phríomh-Ama

Bhí Foras na Mara le feiceáil go feiceálach i dhá chlár de shraith teilifíse RTÉ *10 Things to Know About* i mí na Samhna. Le figiúirí lucht féachana de níos mó ná 250,000 in aghaidh na heipeasóide, is é an tsraith ar sceideal príomh-ama RTÉ One príomhchlár eolaíochta na hÉireann.



Sa chéad chlár den tsraith bhí obair thaighdeoirí Fhoras na Mara maidir le siorcanna, gathanna agus scátaí a chlibeáil agus a rianú chun cabhrú linn tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar na créatúir seo agus rinne eachtra níos déanaí iniúchadh ar tháirgeadh inbhuanaithe bia agus ar ról Fhoras na Mara sa dobharshaothrú, agus, go háirithe, Dobharshaothrú Comhtháite Ilthrópaiceach (IMTA).



Tugann Suíomh Gréasáin INFOMAR Tumadh Domhain isteach i Longbhriseadh na hÉireann

Lean láithreán gréasáin INFOMAR ar aghaidh ag mealladh cuairteoirí, ag iarraidh féachaint ar a chairteacha in-íoslódáilte, a lucht féachana ghrinneall na farraige agus dríodair, léarscáileanna ar scála gorm agus go leor eile. Bhí 86,015 cuairt ar an suíomh gréasáin (infomar.ie) idir Eanáir agus Nollaig 2024, lenar áiríodh 21,462 úsáideoir nua ar an suíomh.

Ag leathnú ar a shraith Léarscáileanna Gorma 2023 ar éirigh thar cionn léi, sheol INFOMAR sraith nua grafaic faisnéise, Shipwrecks of Ireland. Tugann an tsraith seo léargas domhain ar stair mhuirí na hÉireann, léarscáileanna mionsonraithe 3T agus stair longbhriste. San iomlán, mapáladh 542 longbhriseadh ó 2001.

Ár nEolaithe Mara sa Todhchaí a Chumhachtú: Clár Sparánachta an tSamhraidh



Thug Clár Sparánachta Samhraidh Bliantúil Fhoras na Mara cumhacht do 23 mac léinn in 2024 feabhas a chur ar a gcuid scileanna eolaíochta mara agus léargais a fháil ar ghairmeacha in earnáil na mara.

Fuair na rannpháirtithe scileanna taighde, cur i láthair agus líonraithe, rud a chruthaigh bealach chun fostaíochta. Tá go leor rannpháirtithe sparánachta roimhe seo tar éis cur le Foras na Mara mar bhaill foirne, rud a threisíonn tionchar buan an chláir.

CÁS-STAIDÉAR

Clár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe: leanaí a spreagadh agus oideachas a chur orthu le bheith ina seaimpíní aigéin

Le beagnach 20 bliain anuas, tá Clár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe ag plé le daltaí bunscoile, múinteoirí, an pobal agus an líonra oideachais, chun an chéad ghlúin eile de cheannairí mara agus seaimpíní aigéin a chruthú in Éirinn.



Daltaí ó Scoil Náisiúnta Dhumha Acha (ar bronnadh Gradam Scoile na dTaiscéalaithe um Chosantóirí na nAigéan orthu) leis an Dr. Rick Officer, POF Fhoras na Mara.

Spreagann an clár leanaí agus oideoirí chun cinntí eolasacha agus freagracha a dhéanamh maidir leis an aigéan agus a chuid acmhainní. Cuireann sé ár bhféiniúlacht agus ár n-oidhreacht mhuirí agus mhuirí chun cinn, agus cabhraíonn sé le hobair Fhoras na Mara a thabhairt isteach do ghlúin nua.

Téann níos mó ná 14,000 páiste, na céadta múinteoir agus múinteoir faoi oiliúint, agus na mílte ball den phobal i dteagmháil leis an gclár gach bliain.

Maoinithe ag Foras na Mara, tá sé á bhainistiú agus á sheachadadh i 14 chontae cois cósta ag 'Explorers Team of Camden Education', 'Galway Atlantaquaria', 'SeashoreKids', 'Oceanics Surf School', 'Old Cork Waterworks Experience', 'Sea Synergy', agus 'Leave No Trace Ireland'.

Díríonn an clár ar ghníomhaíochtaí láimhe, taiscéalaíocht, agus comhthéacsanna agus eispéiris fíor-dhomhanda – cuimsíonn sé modúil uisceadán sa seomra ranga, safaris cladaigh, ceardlanna ETIM, agus Tionscadal Scoil an Aigéin Shláintiúil. I measc na modúl oideachais a forbraíodh in 2024 bhí ábhar maidir le hoiriúnú agus maolú ar an athrú aeráide, agus forbairt inbhuanaithe an fhuinnimh in-athnuaite amach ón gcósta.

Baineann Clár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe úsáid as Creatchuraclam nua na Bunscoile (2023), a chuireann deiseanna nua ar fáil do mhúinteoirí agus do pháistí réimse scileanna a fhorbairt, lena n-áirítear scileanna gorma agus litearthacht aigéin.



Páistí na Gaillimhe ag ceiliúradh Lá Muirí na hEorpa le Sibeal Regan ó Chlár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe

Is féidir le scoileanna Tionscadail Scoile Aigéin Shláintiúla a chur i gcrích agus an deis a bheith acu iad a chur isteach le haghaidh Gradam 'Explorers Ocean Champions'. Léiríonn samplaí de thionscadail a rinneadh le déanaí réimse cruthaitheachta agus nuálaíochta na mac léinn – idir phodchraoltaí a fhorbairt, amhráin a scríobh agus a chasadh, agus ó ghlantacháin trá a eagrú go dtí eolaíocht agus saothar ealaíne a fhorbairt timpeall ar shaol an aigéin.

Óstálann scoileanna aoichainteoirí nó tugann siad cuairt ar dhaoine óna bpobal áitiúil a roinneann scéalta faoi bheith ag obair in earnáil na mara agus faoi chosaint an comhshaoil muirí, rud a fhágann go bhfuil an nasc leis an aigéan inláimhsithe agus insroichte do dhaltai bunscoile.

Glacann foireann Chlár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe páirt in imeachtaí for-rochtana ar nós Féile Eolaíochta agus Teicneolaíochta na Gaillimhe, Seimineáir Ghréasáin Lá Domhanda an Aigéin, Deireadh Seachtaine na Speiceas Dúchasach ag Zú Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus Carnabhal Eolaíochta Chorcaí.



Cén tionchar atá ag Clár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe?

Léiríonn meastóireacht ar na torthaí i scoileanna meánmhéadú bliantúil ar litearthacht agus eolas aigéan na ndaltaí de níos mó ná 20%.

Léiríonn na torthaí freisin méadú suntasach ar an eolas atá ag múinteoirí agus ag múinteoirí faoi oiliúint ar choincheapa litearthachta aigéin, lena n-áirítear saol na n-aigéan, gnáthóga, taiscéalaíocht, chomh maith leis an aigéan agus an aeráid, agus an nasc atá ag daoine leis an aigéan.

Thug 79% de mhúinteoirí le fios gur roinn siad an t-ábhar le daoine agus líonraí eile, múinteoirí sa seomra foirne san áireamh, ar na meáin shóisialta, agus le cairde agus teaghlaigh.

Tá tonnta déanta ag Clár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe san earnáil oideachais i gcoitinne freisin – bhuaigh sé 'An Gradam For-rochtana Oideachais is Fearr' in 2023 ag na Gradaim Oideachais bhliantúla. Bronnadh an gradam do 'Explorers Healthy Ocean Project & Ocean Champion'.

“

Thaitin an taithí go mór leis an rang agus bhí tionchar mór aige ar a gcuid foghlama. Cuimhníonn siad ar go leor de na rudaí a bhuail siad agus tá suim mhór acu sa chomhshaol mhuirí anois. Ó thaobh mo chuid teagaisc de, chuir sé go mór liom an tionchar a bhíonn ag turais allamuigh lasmuigh leis na páistí agus an tábhacht a bhaineann le heolas an mhúinteora a thuiscint.

”

Noirin de Barra, Múinteoir Rang a Sé, Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Alainn, Co. Chorcaí

“

Tá an-áthas orainn gur tugadh an deis dúinn oibriú le Clár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe agus le baill eile den phobal. Bhí na páistí chun tosaigh sa Tionscadal Aigéan Sláintiúil seo, 'Na Liamháin Ghréine', agus ní dhéanfaidh mé dearmad go deo ar an gcomhoibriú agus ar an obair foirne a bhain siad amach. Mar scoil bheag, leagamar amach tionchar a imirt agus tá áthas orainn go raibh tionchar mór aige ar thuismitheoirí, ar theaghlaigh agus ar chairde na bpáistí, agus ar go leor eile. Tugann an gradam aitheantas d'iarachtaí na scoile a bheith ina seaimpíní aigéin, áit a bhfuil ní hamháin foghlamtha againn ach a raibh tionchar dearfach acu freisin.

”

Ba í Irene Gielty, Príomhoide Scoil Náisiúnta na nDúchrónach (ba í an scoil in Acaill, Co. Mhaigh Eo, buaiteoir Ghradam Náisiúnta Scoil Seaimpín Aigéin na dTaiscéalaithe 2023-2024)



Léim go domhain isteach i gClár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe explorers.ie

CREIDMHEASANNA GRIANGHRAF

Lch2	Grianghraf: Andrew Downes.	Lch16	Grianghraf: David McGloin.
Lch4	Grianghraf: Gerard McCarthy.	Lch17	Cuan Mó. Grianghraif: David Brannigan.
Lch5 + 6	Bliain i Saol Fhoras na Mara:	Lch24	Grianghraif: Constantino Pana (University of Texas Institute).
1	Torciasc. Grianghraf: Jonathan White.	Lch25	Grianghraf: Tomas Szumski.
2	RV Celtic Explorer sa Ghraonlainn. Grianghraf: Constantino Pana (University of Texas Institute).	Lch27	Grianghraf: Jonathan White
3	IMBDON buoy. Grianghraf: Tomas Szumski.	Lch31	Grianghraf: Andrew Downes.
4	Páistí na Gaillimhe ag ceiliúradh Lá Muirí na hEorpa le Sibeal Regan ó Chlár Oideachais na dTaiscéalaithe. Grianghraf: Cushla Dromgool-Regan.	Lch33	Grianghraf: Kelly Oysters.
5	Painéil ghréine ar dhíon cheanncheathrú Fhoras na Mara in Órán Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe	Lch38	Grianghraif: Paul Reardon.
6	Máire Éinniú ag ócáid MIIN i gContae Mhaigh Eo.	Lch39	Grianghraf 1: Sa phictiúr tá John Bell, An Coimisiún Eorpach, Niall McDonough, Foras na Mara, Oifigeach Rick, Foras na Mara, Sinéad McSherry, An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Colin Stafford-Johnson. ceamaradóir fiadhúlra, stiúrthóir agus craoltóir agus Deirdre Lillis, DFHERIS. Grianghraf: Jason Clarke.
7	Suirbhé Aeráide na nAigéan.		Grianghraf 2: Painéal ar 'One Global Ocean' ag Ocean Knowledge 2030 (ó chlé go deas) - Karen Coleman (Moderator), Carl Grainger, An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha, Jan Mees, Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Claire Jolly, OECD, John Bell, An Coimisiún Eorpach, Dave Reid, Cathaoirleach Choiste Eolaíochta ICES (SCICOM). Grianghraf: Jason Clarke.
8	Imeacht Tionscadail Deiridh IFSTL.	Lch42	Grianghraif: Jason Clarke.
9	Cuairteoirí óga ag an taispeántas 'Eolaíocht na Mara' i Músaem Chiarraí Thiar. Grianghraf: Domnick Walsh.	Lch46	Grianghraf: Marcus Fontela.
10	Eurofleets + Eolaithe IOPD cúrsála maoinithe ar bord an RV Sanna. Grianghraf: Wieter Boone, VLIZ.	Lch47	Grianghraf: Wieter Boone, VLIZ.
11	Clibeáil bráthair.	Lch50	Grianghraf: Gerry O'Halloran.
12	Ambasadóir na Fraince chun na hÉireann, Vincent Guérend, le Príomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Fhoras na Mara, an Dr Rick Officer.	Lch55	Grianghraf: Ports de Normandie.
13	Oíche Chultúir i bhForas na Mara, Órán Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe. Grianghraf: Andrew Downes.	Lch56	Grianghraf 2: Cherbourg: Jérôme Houyvet-Biplan.
14	Saotharlann an chláir tástála noraiviris.	Lch59	Feirm Bradán, Beantraí, Co. Chorcaí. Grianghraf: Coast Monkey.
15	Lá Foirne Bhaile Uí Fhiacháin 2024.	Lch60	Grianghraf: Jonathan White.
16	Amelia Hilley agus Mairéad O'Sullivan ag Ocean Knowledge 2030.	Lch61	Grianghraf: Andrew Downes.
17	Ceann de na painéil phlé ag Ocean Knowledge 2030. Grianghraf: Jason Clarke.	Lch63	Grianghraf 2: Andrew Downes.
Lch8	Grianghraf: Andrew Downes.	Lch82	Grianghraf 1: Domnick Walsh, Grianghraf 3: Andrew Downes.
Lch9	Grianghraf: Jason Clarke.	Lch83	Grianghraif Oíche Chultúir: Andrew Downes.
Lch11	Grianghraf: Jonathan White.	Lch85	Grianghraf: Michael McLaughlin.
Lch12	Grianghraf: Ciaran O'Donnell.	Lch86	Grianghraf: Cushla Dromgool-Regan.
Lch15	Grianghraf 2: Coast Monkey, Grianghraf 3: Andrew Downes.		

RIALACHAS CORPARÁIDEACH

Cód Cleachtais um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit

Feidhmíonn Foras na Mara de réir na gcleachtas is fearr maidir le prionsabail rialachais chorparáidigh de réir Chód Cleachtais um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit. Tá raon nósanna imeachta, beartas agus treoirlínte i bhfeidhm ag Foras na Mara chun a chinntiú go ndéanfar de réir an chóid agus beartas agus cleachtas de chuid an Fhorais is ea tacú le timpeallacht rialaithe éifeachtach, córas bainistíochta riosca agus feidhm iniúchóireachta inmheánaí a fhorbairt agus a neartú

Soláthar agus Bainistíocht Airgeadais

Tá próiseas soláthair poiblí cuí ag Foras na Mara atá de réir rialacha an AE agus náisiúnta. Fógraíodh 46 tairiscint ar shuíomh Gréasáin Etenders (etenders.gov.ie) in 2024, chomh maith le soláthar trí Chomhaontuithe Réime ábhartha na hOifige um Sholáthar Rialtais.

Tá sé mar bheartas ag Foras na Mara a chinntiú go n-íoctar gach sonrasc go pras laistigh de théarmaí an Achta um Íoc Pras Cuntas, 1997, agus Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Íocaíocht Dhéanach in Idirbhearta Tráchtála) 2012 Tá córais agus nósanna imeachta i bhfeidhm chun sonraisc a rianú agus a chinntiú go ndéantar íocaíochtaí ar bhealach tráthúil agus éifeachtach. Tá nósanna imeachta i bhfeidhm freisin chun a chinntiú go n-íoctar ús déanach, más gá.

Nochtuithe Cosanta

Ní dhearnadh aon Nochtadh Cosanta i rith na bliana.

Caighdeáin um Chomhlíonadh maidir le Ceisteanna ó Chomhaltaí den Oireachtas

Chomhlíon Foras na Mara go hiomlán na caighdeáin agus na ceanglais a bhaineann le freagairt ar cheisteanna ó Chomhaltaí an Oireachtais.

Dualgas na hEarnála Poiblí maidir le Comhionannas agus Cearta Daonna

Cuireann Foras na Mara cearta daonna agus ceisteanna comhionannais san áireamh i ngach gné dá fheidhmeanna reachtúla ar bhonn leanúnach. Cinntíonn an Foras rochtain ar shonraí, ar fhaisnéis agus ar sheirbhísí, agus tá struchtúir oibriúcháin aige a chuireann deireadh le claontacht agus a chinntíonn cothroime ina chuid oibríochtaí.

Agus plean straitéiseach *Fhoras na Mara Eolas Mara a Chuirfidh Eolas agus Spreagadh ar Fáil* (2023–2027) á cheapadh, chuir an eagraíocht cosaint chearta daonna na bhfostaithe agus na n-úsáideoirí seirbhíse san áireamh.

Cumasaítear ár rannchuidiú leis an tsochaí trínár struchtúir rialachais le fócas ar chothroime, trédhearcacht, cuimsiú, iompar eiticiúil, comhlíonadh, soláthar freagrach agus cothrom, agus luach ar airgead don Stát agus don phobal.

Laistigh den tosaíocht *straitéiseach Ag Cumasú Ár nDaoine Chun Sármhaitheas a Sheachadadh*, aithníonn plean straitéiseach an Fhorais freisin tiomantas do éagsúlacht san ionad oibre, agus infheistíocht i struchtúir a chuireann rochtain agus deis chothrom ar fáil do chách. Aithníodh tionscnamh straitéiseach ar leith, is é sin cumasú Ghrúpa Comhionannais, Éagsúlachta agus Cuimsithe Fhoras na Mara chun cothrom na féinne a chur chun cinn do chách, le gníomhartha sonracha ag díriú ar chomhionannas inscne.

Cuireadh le linn 2024 le forbairt Straitéis agus Plean Gníomhaíochta Comhionannais, Éagsúlachta & Cuimsithe (lena n-áirítear Plean Comhionannais Inscne) Fhoras na Mara 2024–2027, ina

ndearnadh measúnú ar dhualgais cearta daonna agus comhionannais agus inar leagadh amach gníomhartha sonracha le cur i bhfeidhm agus le tomhas.

I measc fhorbairtí agus ghníomhartha eile in 2024 maidir le dul i ngleic le saincheisteanna comhionannais agus cearta daonna tá:

- Ag cur go leanúnach leis an gClár Comhionannais, Éagsúlachta agus Cuimsithe, ag ceiliúradh éagsúlachta, ag tuiscint agus ag baint bacainní, ag cur comhionannas cóireála agus deise chun cinn
- Grúpa Comhionannais, Éagsúlachta agus Cuimsithe thar a bheith gníomhach a dhéanann iarracht ionadaíocht a chinntiú ó gach grád foirne, ról, cúlra, Grúpa Seirbhíse agus suíomh Fhoras na Mara
- Cur chuige comhairliúcháin á leanúint maidir le cumarsáid agus measúnú ar chearta daonna agus ar cheisteanna comhionannais, mar shampla, maidir le cur i bhfeidhm polasaithe, measúnú pleananna gníomhaíochta agus comhaontú pleananna oibre
- Pleananna oiliúna agus forbartha á gceapadh do dhaoine a oibríonn linn
- Ullmhú tuairiscithe ar bhearna phá idir na hinscní agus anailís ar threochtaí agus ar chúiseanna leis sin

Cosaint Sonraí

Comhlíonann Foras na Mara a oibleagáidí maidir le cosaint sonraí faoi Rialachán Ginearálta maidir le Cosaint Sonraí (RGCS) agus Achtanna um Chosaint Sonraí 1988–2018. Tuairiscíodh sárú sonraí ísealriosca amháin don Choimisinéir Cosanta Sonraí in 2024. Cuireadh bearta maolaithe láithreacha i bhfeidhm, nár éirigh le díobháil do dhuine sonraí, agus níor tháinig aon phionós ná caillteanas dá thoradh.

Caidreamh

Clúdaíonn clár Fhoras na Mara raon leathan gníomhaíochtaí a éilíonn idirchaidreamh agus comhoibriú dlúth le go leor daoine aonair agus eagraíochtaí.

Áirítear orthu sin an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe, an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht, an Roinn Iompair, an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, chomh maith le ranna rialtais eile agus gníomhaireachtaí Stáit (amhail Bord Iascaigh Mhara, an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil, Taighde Éireann, Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann, Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann agus go leor eile), fiontair phríobháideacha agus an earnáil ardoideachais.

Aithníonn an Foras an tacaíocht agus an comhoibriú leanúnach ó gach duine lena mbaineann.

An tAcht um Eitic agus Oifigí Poiblí 1995 agus 2001

Chomhlíon gach duine a bhfuil post ainmnithe aige laistigh d'Fhoras na Mara ceanglais an Choimisiúin um Oifigí Poiblí den Acht um Eitic in Oifigí Poiblí, 1995.

Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021

Tuairiscíonn an Foras comhlíonadh maidir le fógraíocht, comharthaíocht, foilseacháin agus riachtanais eile faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2021 (arna leasú). Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an nOifigeach Gaeilge ag ato@marine.ie.

Bainistíocht Riosca

Socraíonn Bord Fhoras na Mara ton agus fonn riosca na heagraíochta leis an bhFeidhmeannacht; a áirithiú go bhfuil creat bainistíochta riosca bunaithe agus láidir i bhfeidhm a thacaíonn le riosca a shainaithint agus a mhaolú go réamhghníomhach ar bhonn leanúnach.

Leagtar amach sa Bheartas Bainistíochta Riosca, a ndéanann an Bord athbhreithniú bliantúil air, cuspóirí bainistíochta riosca na heagraíochta; fonn riosca na heagraíochta; agus an creat bainistíochta riosca ina sonraítear róil agus freagrachtaí na foirne agus chomhaltaí an Bhoird, agus an próiseas chun riosca a shainaithint, a chatagóiriú agus a mhéadú.

Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar an gcreat riosca atá i bhfeidhm i 2024 agus tugann sé aghaidh ar cheanglais uile an Chóid Chleachtais um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit (2016) lena n-áirítear larscríbhinn 2020 a ghabhann leis an gCód um Chomhardú Inscne, Éagsúlacht agus Cuimsiú.

Creat Bainistíochta Riosca Fhoras na Mara

Athbhreithniú leanúnach

An Bord

- Leibhéal riosca an Bhoird fhéin agus próifíl riosca na heagraíochta a athbhreithniú
- An Polasaí Bainistíochta Riosca a cheadú (lena n-áirítear ceanglais an chóid)
- Éifeachtúlacht gníomhaíochtaí bainistithe riosca a chinntiú – athbhreithniú inmheánach agus seachtrach
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar na dtimpeallachtaí oibriúcháin agus ceadaithe ar Bhainistíocht Riosca An Polasaí lena n-áirítear Inghlacthacht Riosca

Foireann Sinsearach Ceannaireachta (Leis an bPríomhfheidhmeannach i gceannas)

- Úinéireacht phríomha a ghlacadh do rioscaí eagraíochta
- Bainisteoir Riosca a cheapadh
- Forbairt Polasaithe Bainistíochta Riosca a threorú agus a mhaoirsiú
- Uirlisí Bainistíochta Riosca a chur i bhfeidhm, lena gcinntítear rialú agus maolú riosca
- An Clár Rioscaí agus na pleananna gníomhaíochta a athbhreithniú
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar éifeachtacht na Bainistíochta Riosca
- Feabhas leanúnach ar phróisis bhainistíochta riosca a chur chun cinn

An Bainisteoir Riosca

- A bheith freagrach go díreach don POF agus don Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca (CIR)
- A bheith freagrach don Bhainistíocht Feidhmiúcháin
- Polasaí Bainistíochta Riosca a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm
- Sainaithint, tosaíocht agus bainistiú maidir le rioscaí a chomhordú
- Treoir a sholáthar d'úinéirí riosca agus d'fhoireann na heagraíochta
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar an bpróiseas bainistithe teagmhais agus imeachtaí
- Páirt a ghlacadh in agus tacú le hiniúchtaí agus aon mholadh iniúcháireachta a chur i bhfeidhm

Úinéirí Riosca agus Gníomhaíochta

- Úinéireacht agus bainistíocht a dhéanamh ar riosca a tharmlichtear sa Chlár Riosca
- Cloí leis na rialuithe atá luaite sa Chlár Riosca agus tuairisc a thabhairt ar aon bhearna/laige rialaithe
- Aithníonn Úinéirí Riosca agus Gníomhaíochta maoluithe chun rioscaí arna n-aithint a laghdú agus tuairiscíonn siad ina leith dá mbainisteoir
- An Clár Riosca a úsáid mar uirlis bhainistíochta sheachtainiúil chun maolú éifeachtach riosca a chinntiú
- Riosca a aithint agus iad a chur sa chlár riosca
- Teagmhais agus imeachtaí a thuairisciú do na Bainisteoirí Riosca

An Fhoireann

- Cloí leis na rialuithe mar atá luaite sa Chlár Riosca agus tuairisc a thabhairt ar aon bhearna/laige rialaithe
- Rioscaí a aithint agus rioscaí agus imeachtaí a thuairisciú don Bhainisteoir Riosca

An Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca

- Tuairiscí riosca a athbhreithniú agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar éifeachtúlacht na bainistíochta riosca
- Plean Iniúcháireachta Inmheánaí atá Bunaithe ar Riosca a cheadú
- Treoir a thabhairt don Fheidhm Iniúcháireachta Inmheánaí atá ag díriú ar na príomhréimsí le hathbhreithniú orthu

Iniúchadh Inmheánach

- Plean iniúcháireachta inmheánaí bunaithe ar riosca a fhorbairt ar bhonn bliantúil
- Iniúchtaí a thabhairt ón bplean iniúcháireachta don CIR ina mionsonraítear an leibhéal dearbhaith maidir leis an timpeallacht rialaithe do na réimse arna n-athbhreithniú agus atá á dtuairisciú
- Dearbhú a chur ar fáil i.e. Leordhóthanacht na rialuithe ar fud réimsí riosca ar leith (lena n-áirítear an bhainistíocht riosca)

Uirlisí Bainistíochta Riosca

- An Clár Riosca
- Athbhreithniú ar thuairiscí riosca agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar éifeachtúlacht bainistíochta riosca, lena n-áirítear buan-athbhreithniú an chlár riosca ag cruinnithe bainistíochta
- Díriú ar na príomhréimsí atá le n-athbhreithniú
- Ongoing Risk and Audit staff trainingOiliúint Riosca agus Iniúcháireachta leanúnach do bhaill foirne

An Clár Riosca

Tá Clár Rioscaí i bhfeidhm a shainaitníonn na príomhrioscaí atá roimh Fhoras na Mara agus a shonraíonn na rialuithe agus na gníomhartha is gá chun na rioscaí sin a mhaolú agus a sannann freagracht as feidhmiú rialuithe maolaithe d'úinéirí riosca ar leith.

Déanann na Comhoifigigh Riosca athbhreithniú agus nuashonrú ar an gClár Riosca i gcomhairle le hÚinéirí Riosca agus leis an bhFoireann Cheannaireachta Shinsearach go ráithiúil, agus tuairiscítear é don Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca agus don Bhord.

Deimhníonn Foras na Mara go bhfuil measúnú déanta aige ar rioscaí na heagraíochta agus aithníodh na príomhrioscaí seo a leanas:

Maolú	Maoluithe
Iontaoibh agus muinín na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, na Roinne Iompair, agus Ranna Rialtais agus Gníomhaireachtaí Stáit eile, cliaint, príomhpháirtithe leasmhara, pobail áitiúla agus an pobal i gcoitinne a choinneáil	- Cur i bhfeidhm Phlean Straitéiseach Fhoras na Mara 2023 go 2027 – <i>Eolas faoin Aigéan a Mhúsclaíonn Feasacht agus a Spreagann Fiosracht</i>. - Struchtúir chun tuairisciú agus foirmeacha tuairiscithe don Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara (DAFM) atá comhaontaithe. - Comhaontuithe Leibhéal Seirbhíse le Ranna Rialtais agus le Gníomhaireachtaí Stáit. - Cumarsáid agus Rannpháirtíocht rialta le Páirtithe Leasmhara lena n-áirítear comhpháirtithe taighde, pobail chósta agus tionscal.
Tionchair na dtírdhreacha agus na n-imeachtaí idirnáisiúnta agus náisiúnta athraitheacha ar acmhainní lena n-áirítear Daoine, Airgeadais agus Oibriochtúil	- Bainistíocht chúramach ar na rioscaí sin ag Comhoifigigh Riosca leis an bhFeidhmeannas agus leis an mBord mar chuid de nósanna imeachta agus cleachtais Bainistíochta Riosca agus Leanúnachais Ghnó. - Lucht saothair rollach, pleananna airgeadais agus oibriúcháin éifeachtacha i bhfeidhm agus á monatóiriú go míosúil, ag cur éilimh agus brúnna méadaitheacha a bhaineann le soláthar san áireamh. - Úsáid na gCreatáí Leanúnachais Ghnó, agus na bPleananna Éifeachtúlachta chun dúshláin airgeadais a bhainistiú sa chás go n-eascaíonn siad, agus pleananna oiliúna foirne / trasoiliúna agus rochtain ar thacaíochtaí éigeandála. - Tús a chur le comhrá le ranna tuismitheora agus le ranna rialtais agus gníomhaireachtaí eile ag a bhfuil comhaontuithe ar leibhéal seirbhíse agus socruithe maoinithe i bhfeidhm. - Iniúchtaí neamhspleácha rialta ar ár gcreataí agus ar ár gcleachtais oibriúcháin agus bainistíochta riosca.
Caillteanas nó truailliú sonraí nó rochtana córais nó teip / cur isteach ar an mBonneagar Cumarsáide de bharr Sáraithe Cibearshlándála - ag cinntiú go bhfuil rialuithe agus nósanna imeachta slándála dóthanacha i bhfeidhm chun cosaint in aghaidh cibirionsaithe	- Polasaithe, nósanna imeachta agus cleachtais sonraí agus slándála TFC a bhaineann le caighdeán tionscail cuí a chur i bhfeidhm. Iniúchtaí neamhspleácha rialta ar ár gcreataí agus ar ár gcleachtais oibriúcháin agus bainistíochta riosca. - Ceapachán Príomhoifigeach Slándála Faisnéise Fíorúil neamhspleách, infheistíocht leanúnach i gcosaint cibearshlándála. - Moltaí creata bonnlíne cibearshlándála na hearnála poiblí a chur chun feidhme ar bhonn céimnithe le saineolaithe ábhair. - Infheistíocht agus pleanáil méadaithe in oiliúint spriocdhírith agus ábhartha do bhaill foirne; Pleananna athshlánaithe tubaiste TF a chur i bhfeidhm d'Fhoras na Mara mar chuid de Chreataí Leanúnachais Gníomhaíochtaí. - Tá Clár Riosca TFC i bhfeidhm.
Riosca teipe nó caillteanais bonneagair shuntasaigh lena n-áirítear árthaí, saoráidí agus trealamh a úsáidtear ar muir	- Polasaithe, nósanna imeachta agus cleachtais chothabhála agus shábháilteachta a chur i bhfeidhm, lena gcloítear le cóid d'árthaí an Chóid Idirnáisiúnta um Bainistíocht Sábháilteachta. - Tá Plean Sláinte, Sábháilteachta, Comhshaoil agus Cáilíochta i bhfeidhm; in éineacht le Pleananna Leanúnachais Ghnó arna dtástáil a n-áiríonn rochtain ar shaoráidí taighde agus ar árthaí malartacha. Tá creataí éifeachtacha freagartha géarchéime / éigeandála i bhfeidhm chomh maith. I gcás caillteanas iomlán, tá na hearraí ardluacha clúdaithe ag árachas. - Tá oiliúint cuí ar chaighdeán tionscail i bhfeidhm do gach pearsanra atá ar an talamh agus ar muir, lena n-áirítear gníomhaíochtaí muirghabhála. - Athbhreithniú a dhéanamh le saineolaithe an ábhair ag an leibhéal rialtais ar chur chun feidhme éifeachtúlacht na reachtaíochta ábhartha a rialaíonn úsáid bonneagair agus inmharthanacht chlár a chinntiú, lena n-áirítear árthaí ar muir.

Inbhuanaitheacht agus Éifeachtúlacht Fuinnimh

Tuairisciú ag Comhlachtaí san Earnáil Phoiblí (S.I. 542 de 2009)

Is prionsabal treorach í inbhuanaitheacht agus éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh ar fud na heagraíochta.

Rinne Foras na Mara iniúchadh fuinnimh in 2024, a chomhlíon ceanglais rialála Ionstraim Reachtúil SI426 lena gceanglaítear ar eagraíochtaí a bhfuil os cionn 250 fostaí nó láimhdeachas bliantúil os cionn €50 milliún acu (agus ar chomhlachtaí earnála poiblí a bhfuil achar urláir úsáideach iomlán os cionn500m² nó caiteachas fuinnimh bliantúil os cionn €35,000 acu) iniúchadh fuinnimh a dhéanamh gach tréimhse ceithre bliana as a chéile.

Cuireadh an tuarascáil le chéile le freastal ar riachtanais Roinn 6.3 de chaighdeáin ISO 50001:2018 a úsáidfídh Foras na Mara dá dheimhniú beartaithe le ISO 50001 in 2025.

Comhlíonann an Institiúid Ciorclán 1/2020: Nósanna imeachta chun na hastaíochtaí a bhaineann le haerthaisteal oifigiúil a fhritháireamh agus tá sonraí aerthaistil curtha faoi bhráid na Roinne Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide (DECC) aici le trí bliana anuas. Déanaimid taifead agus tuairisciú nuair is cuí ar gach míleáiste a dhéantar chun críocha taistil ghnó.

Déanaimid na ceanglais tuairiscithe a bhaineann le húsáid fuinnimh agus táirgeadh gás ceaptha teasa a ghabháil de láimh agus a chur i gcrích agus tá na ceanglais a leagtar amach i Sainordú um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide 2023 (2024) curtha chun feidhme againn nuair a chomhaontaíonn an Rialtas é sin.

Bhain Foras na Mara úsáid as na hábhair seo a leanas in 2024:

Cineál Fuinnimh	Aonad	2024
Gás Peitiriliam Leachtaithe (LPG)	lítear	198,891
Ceirisín	lítear	14,499
Díosal Bóthair (DERV)	lítear	11,752
Ola Gáis Mara (MGO)	lítear	2,104,175
Ola Glasraí Hidrealaithe (HVO)	lítear	494,840
Ráta cumasc HVO	%	100%
Allmhairí Leictreachais Glan (sonraí MPRN)	kWh	1,701,111
Giniúint Fuinnimh ar an Suíomh – gréine PV	kWh	253,150
Gás Nádúrtha (sonraí GPRN)	kWh (Oll)	1,300

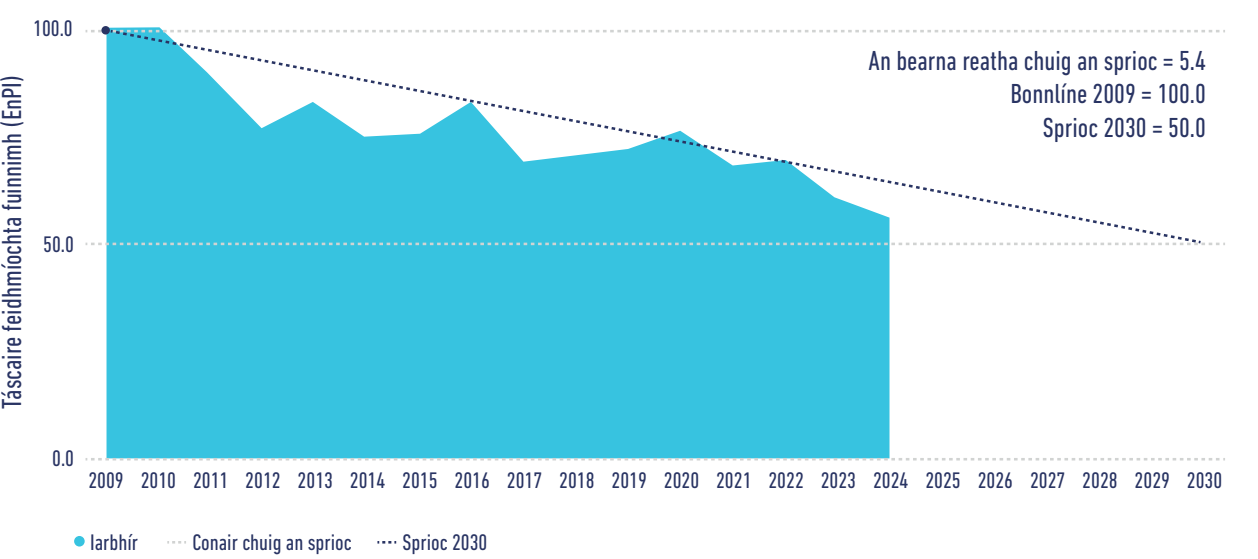
Tá sé de dhualgas ar an Institiúid, mar aon le gach comhlacht poiblí eile, spriocanna náisiúnta a bhaint amach maidir le coigilteas éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh 50% agus laghdú 51% ar astaíochtaí Gáis Cheaptha Teasa (GCT). Is é an sprioc GHG ná laghduithe ar astaíochtaí iontaise agus iomlána CO2.

Táscairí Feidhmíochta Fuinnimh – 2024

Tá éifeachtúlacht 44.6% bainte amach ag Foras na Mara ó bhonnlíne 2009, agus tá laghdú 5.4% ag teastáil chun an sprioc 50% a bhaint amach faoi 2030. De réir an phíblíne tionscadail, léiríonn réamh-mheastacháin bearna de 2.6% faoin mbliain 2030. D'aithin an tIniúchadh SI426 1,568,866 kWh de bhearta éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh ar fud na soitheach taighde agus an cheanncheathrú i gCuan an Óir atá san áireamh sa phíblíne. Beidh tuilleadh imscrúdaithe ar na tionscadail seo, ar nósanna imeachta oibríochta leanúnacha agus ar dheiseanna “eile” le haidhm an 2.6% breise de laghdú éifeachtúlachta a shainaithint.

Chun an sprioc éifeachtúlachta a bhaint amach, ní mór feabhas a chur ar fheidhmíocht fuinnimh 5.4% pointe céatadáin eile laistigh de sé mbliana.

An sprioc éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh



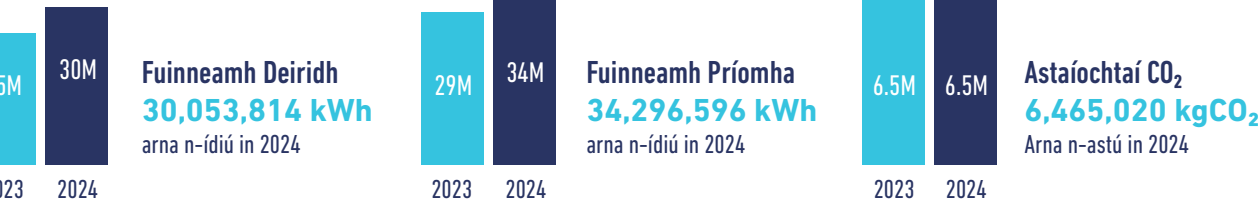
Ídiú fuinnimh agus astaíochtaíCO₂

D'úsáid Foras na Mara níos mó fuinnimh in 2024 ná in 2023, rud a chruthaigh ardú 5.6% os cionn na bunlíne (2016–2018) le haghaidh astaíochtaí CO₂ ó bhreoslaí iontaise agus laghdú 5.7% ar astaíochtaí iomlána CO₂. Is í príomhchúis an mhéadaithe ar thomhaltas ná an obair a rinne na soithigh taighde; le 119 lá breise ar muir agus 4,250 muirmhíle breise taistil i gcomparáid le 2023. Tá na gníomhaíochtaí seo riachtanach chun sainordú an Fhorais a chomhlíonadh agus chun cur le hinbhuanaitheacht na mara.

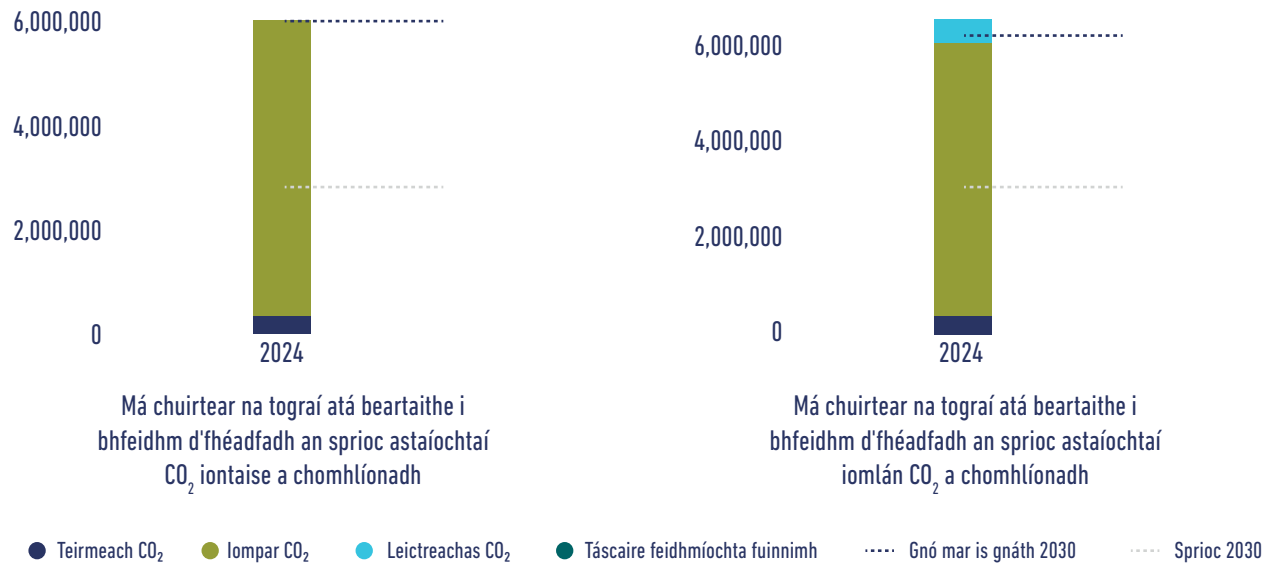
Cé gur mhéadaigh tomhaltas fuinnimh iompair, d'fhan astaíochtaí ar comhchéim le 2023, mar gheall ar úsáid Ola Glasraí arna Chóireáil le Hidrigin mar mhalairt ar Ola Gháis Mhuirí. Tháinig méadú 10,000kg CO₂ ar thomhaltas teirmeach agus astaíochtaí, mar gheall ar oibriú córais téimh a suiteáladh in 2023, rud atá réitithe anois.

Laghdaíodh Leictreachas an Ghreille 80,000kg CO₂, trí ghréine PV ar an láthair agus feabhsuithe ar an ngreille. D’fhan astaíochtaí iomlána an Fhorais ag an leibhéal céanna le 2023 ag 6,494,344kg CO₂. Tá laghdú 53% ag teastáil chun an sprioc de 3,039,239kg CO₂ a bhaint amach faoi 2030. Tá Foras na Mara tiomanta an sprioc astaíochtaí seo a bhaint amach faoi 2030. Léiríonn réamh-mheastacháin gur féidir an sprioc astaíochtaí a bhaint amach má scoireann an Foras de bheith ag úsáid Ola Gháis Mhuirí agus má úsáideann sé Ola Glasraí arna Chóireáil le Hidrigin mar mhalairt, áfach tá méadú suntasach ar bhuiséad oibríochta / maoiniú riachtanach chuige sin. Ba é HVO 20% den bhreosla a úsáideadh chun na soithigh taighde a oibriú in 2024.

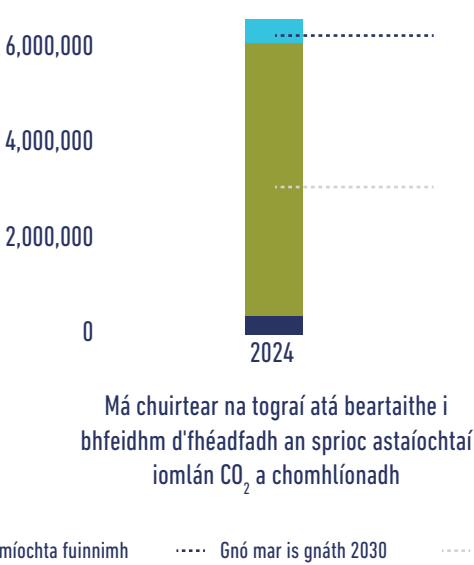
Fuinneamh Iomlán



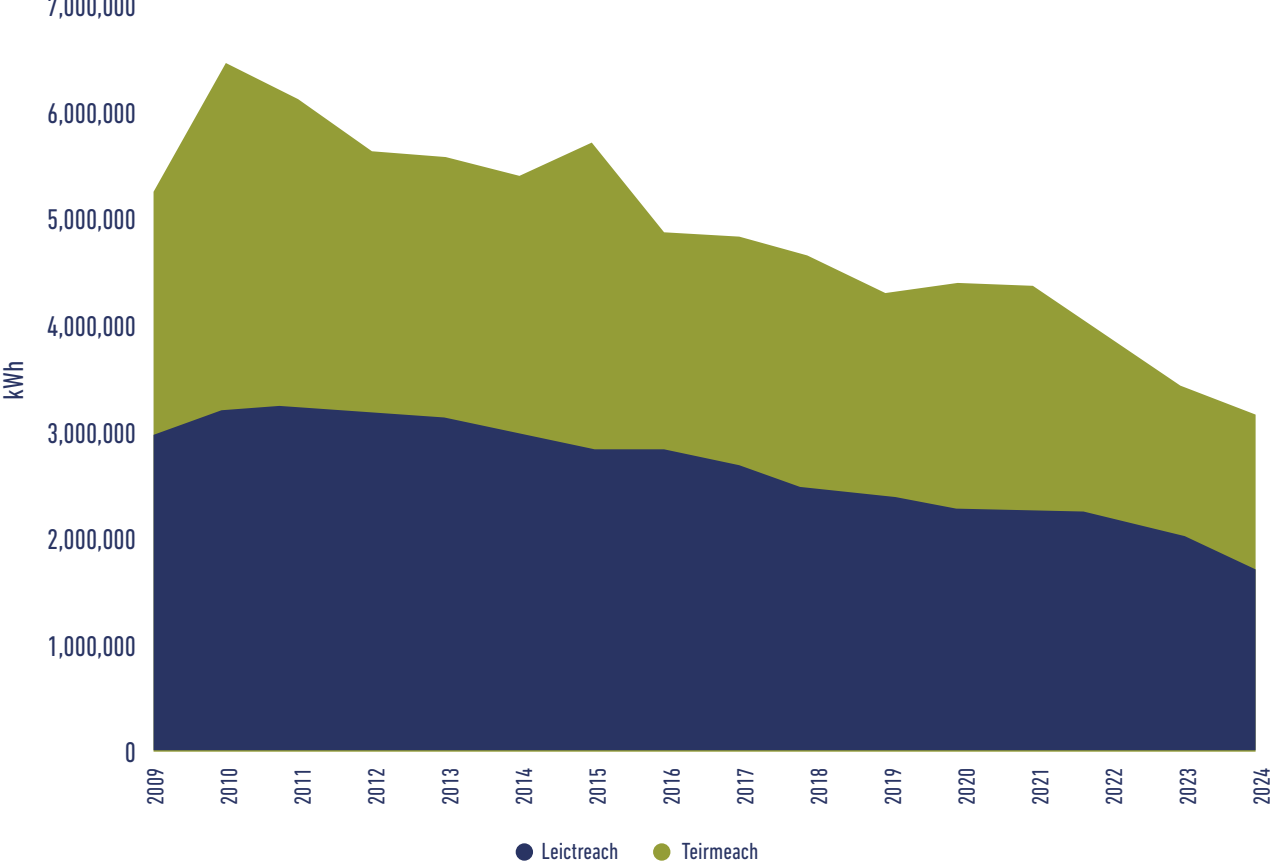
Spríoc CO₂ iontaise, kgCO₂



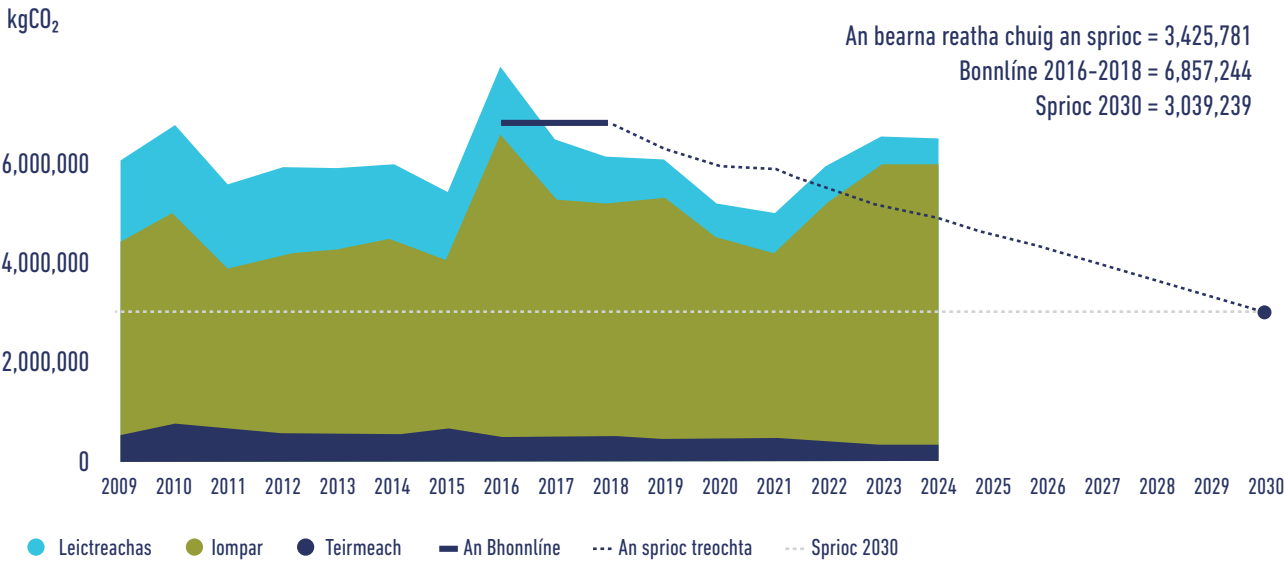
Iomlán na sprice CO₂, kgCO₂



Ceannoifig Órán Mór Laghdú fuinnimh 2024 (kWh)

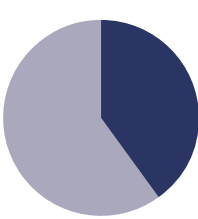


Iomlán na sprice CO₂



In 2024, shroich Ceanncheathrú Órán Mór laghdú fuinnimh 40% ó tháinig sí isteach in Optimising Power @ Work in 2015. Leanann muid orainn ag glacadh páirte i bhfeachtas geimhridh SEAI Reduce Your Use agus é mar aidhm againn ISO50001 a chomhtháthú inár gcleachtais agus nósanna imeachta

eagraíochtúla. Déanann muid monatóireacht ghníomhach ar thomhaltas fuinnimh Cheanncheathrú Uarán Mór agus na soithigh taighde chun bainistíocht a dhéanamh ar úsáid ar bhonn leanúnach.



40%
Laghdú ar an tomhaltas fuinnimh ag foirgneamh cheanncheathrú Uarán Mór ó 2009 i leith.



3 BLIAIN
Cé chomh fada is a d'fhéadfaí ceanncheathrú Uarán Mór a chumhachtú leis na coigiltis a rinneadh ó 2016 i leith.

FOIREANN CEANNAIREACHTA SINSEARACH

(don bhliain dar críoch an 31 Nollaig 2024)



Dr Rick Officer,
POF Foras na Mara

Chuaigh an Dr Rick Officer i mbun a dhualgais mar Phríomhfheidhmeannach Fhoras na Mara i mí Eanáir 2024.

Tá taithí fhairsing ag an Dr. Oifigeach ar iascach inbhuanaithe, ar chlár taighde nuálacha agus chomhtháite a stiúradh, agus ar chomhoibriú straitéiseach a spreagadh go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta. Sula ndeachaigh sé ag obair do Fhoras na Mara, bhí an Dr Officer ina Leas-Uachtarán um Thaighde agus Nuálaíocht in Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh. Bhí sé ina cheannaire ar chomhtháthú ghníomhaíochtaí Taighde agus Nuálaíochta sna hinstiúidí a bhíodh ann roimhe seo — Institiúidí Teicneolaíochta na Gaillimhe-Maigh Eo, Shligigh agus Leitir Ceanainn — mar chuid den chumasc a chruthaigh Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh. Bhí sé freisin ina cheannaire ar bhunú an Mháireagáin Taighde Muirí agus Uisce Úr — an tIonad Taighde is mó in OTÁ, ina bhfuil thart ar 100 duine faoi láthair.

Baineadh amach taithí feidhmiúcháin an Dr Officer maidir le hathrú a stiúradh, ardfheidhmíocht a sholáthar, agus athléimneacht eagraíochtúil a bhaint amach trí obair foirne choláisteach, comhtháthú a fhorbairt maidir le riachtanais straitéiseacha, agus tionchar a imirt laistigh de líonraí gairmiúla sinsearacha.

Fuair Dr Officer a thaithí ar iascach agus dobharshaothrú idirnáisiúnta trína ról mar Eolaí lascaigh i Victoria agus sa Tasmáin, agus a ról mar Cheannaire Eolaíochta d'Iascach agus Dobharshaothrú do Stát Queensland, an Astráil.

Bhí sé i gceannas ar fhoireann taighde agus measúnaithe iascaigh ghrinnill roimhe seo ag Foras na Mara. Mar Cheannaire Fhoireann na nIascach Demeirseal, bhí freagrachtaí an Dr Officer ina measc: príomh-eolaí ar bord soitheach taighde náisiúnta na hÉireann; ionadaí náisiúnta ar Choiste Eolaíoch, Teicniúil agus Eacnamaíoch um Iascach de chuid an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh; agus Cathaoirleach ar Ghrúpaí Oibre Idirnáisiúnta agus Grúpaí Saineolaithe de chuid Chomhairle Idirnáisiúnta um Thaiscéalaíocht na bhFarraigí (ICES) agus an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh.

Tá céim sa tSaineolaíocht agus PhD sa tSaineolaíocht lascaigh ag an Dr Officer ó Ollscoil Melbourne san Astráil, agus céim Mháistreachta i Riarachán Gnó (MBA) ó University College London.



Patricia Orme,
Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí
Corparáideacha

Is Comhalta de Chuntasóirí Cairte na hÉireann í Patricia agus tá Céim Bhaitsiléara sa Tráchtáil Céad Onóracha (Dlí agus Cuntasaíocht) aici ó Ollscoil na hÉireann Gaillimh.

Sular thosaigh sí le Foras na Mara, bhí Patricia ina Stiúrthóir ar KPMG, ceann de na soláthraithe seirbhíse gairmiúla is mó in Éirinn. Ansin, bhí breis agus 20 bliain taithí aici ag soláthar seirbhísí airgeadais, iniúchta, bainistíochta riosca, rialachais agus comhairleacha do chliaint phoiblí, phríobháideacha, bheaga mheánmhéide agus idirnáisiúnta. Bhí ról cheannaireachta aici le freagracht as straitéis, bainistíocht caidrimh le cliaint, feidhmíocht airgeadais agus Acmhainní Daonna.

Thug Patricia léachtaí ar an gclár Máistreachta Cuntasaíochta in OÉ Gaillimh, chuir sí oiliúint ar fáil agus chuir sí i láthair Boird ar Rialachas Corparáideach agus nithe eile. Ó 2011 go 2018, d'fhóin sí ar an mBord Stiúrthóirí agus mar Rúnaí Cuideachta ar Fhondúireacht Croí agus Stróc Croí. Tá Patricia ina Ball de Choiste Iniúchta agus Riosca an Fhorais Riaracháin faoi láthair freisin.

Mar Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí Corparáideacha, tá Patricia freagrach as Rialachas Corparáideach, Airgeadas, Acmhainní Daonna, Áiseanna, Cumarsáid agus Seirbhísí Leabharlainne.

D'fheidhmigh sí mar Oifigeach Cosanta Sonraí na hInstitiúide go dtí mí na Nollag 2020 agus tá sí ina Comhoifigeach Riosca faoi láthair.



Michael Gillooly,
Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí Faisnéise
agus Aeráide Aigéin

Tá Baitsiléir Eolaíochta (Coláiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh), Máistreacht san Eolaíocht Chomhshaoil (Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath) agus Diplóma Náisiúnta sa Bhitheolaíocht Uisceach (Coláiste Teicniúil Réigiúnach na Gaillimhe, Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh anois) ag Michael.

Tá sé freagrach as seirbhísí a threorú, a bhainistiú agus a fhorbairt agus as clár a sheachadadh lena n-áirítear Oibríochtaí Soithí Taighde, Ardseirbhísí Mapála, Seirbhísí Aigéaneolaíochta agus Aeráide, Seirbhísí Forbartha Faisnéise agus Córais, Bonneagair Mhuirí agus Fuinneamh Aigéin.

Tá 30 bliain de thaithí bainistíochta sinsearaí ag Michael ar thaighde teicniúil mara agus tionscadail oibríochtúla, agus tionscadail bhonneagair m.sh. líonraí baoithe aimsire agus breathnóireachta, réadlann eolaíoch cáblaithe Chuan na Gaillimhe. Baineann a thaithí freisin le clár oibríochtúla amhail mapáil INFOMAR, clár RV (Soitheach Taighde) agus ROV (Feithiclí Cianoibrithe), aigéaneolaíocht oibríochtúil agus an t-athrú aeráide. Áirítear leis an taithí pleanála straitéisí an plean mara náisiúnta (*Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth*), clár an Aigéin Dhigiteach Chomhtháite agus pleanáil gnó ilthionscadail.

Bhí Michael ina chomhúdar ar thogra INFOMAR 2005/2006 ar thacaigh an Rialtas leis mar chlár 20 bliain (a bhí le críochnú in 2026), bhí Michael ina thoscaire náisiúnta ar Chomhairle Stiúrtha na Comhairle Idirnáisiúnta um Thaiscéalaíocht na Mara (ICES) ó 2016 go 2018. Faoi láthair is toscaire náisiúnta é ar Thionól Comhaltaí EMSO agus EURO ARGO ERIC, agus is Comhalta de Bhord Feidhmiúcháin EuroOcean é.

Bhí Michael ina bhainisteoir tionscadail ar na cláir chun dhá shoitheach taighde na hInstitiúide a thógáil, an RV *Celtic Voyager* agus RV *Celtic Explorer*, agus ba é an Stiúrthóir a bhí freagrach as an gclár chun RV *Tom Creana* thógáil, a tháinig in ionad an *Celtic Voyager*.



Dr Niall McDonough, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí Beartais, Faisnéise agus Taighde (PIRS)

Chuir Niall McDonough oiliúint ar dtús mar bhitheolaí mara le spéiseanna taighde i ndobharshaothrú na mara, athchóiriú stoc sliogéisc agus bainistíocht acmhainní mara. Tá Baitsiléir Ealaíon (Modhnóireacht) céadonóracha aige i Zó-eolaíocht ó Choláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath (1993) agus PhD ó Ollscoil na Banríona, Béal Feirste (1998).

Tar éis dhá bhliain ag an Institiúid um Athrú Comhshaoil in Ollscoil na hÉireann Gaillimh (OÉ Gaillimh), d'fhóin Niall ar feadh cúig bliana mar Bhainisteoir Ginearálta ar an Ionad Acmhainní Mara agus Muirí (CMar), ionad nuálaíochta in Ollscoil na Banríona, Béal Feirste a chuireann seirbhísí taighde, teicniúil agus comhairleacha ar fáil don earnáil do bharshaothraithe muirí atá ag teacht chun cinn.

Ó 2007 go 2009, d'oibrigh sé le clár comhoibrithe idirnáisiúnta Fhoras na Mara. In 2009, ceapadh é ina Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin ar an mBord Eorpach Muirí (EMB), eagraíocht Eorpach um beartas eolaíochta muirí atá bunaithe ar champas InnovOcean in Ostend, an Bheilg. D'fhill sé ar Éirinn in 2017 chun dul i mbun a ról reatha le Foras na Mara.

Mar Stiúrthóir PIRS, maoirsíonn Niall foireann agus clár oibre a bhfuil príomhról acu chun tacú le taighde mara agus nuálaíocht agus iad a chur chun cinn ar leibhéal náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta.

Comhordaíonn sé cur i bhfeidhm Straitéis Taighde agus Nuálaíochta Mara na hÉireann (2017-2022) agus tá sé ina chathaoirleach ar an bhFóram náisiúnta do Mhaoinitheoirí Taighde Mara. Maoirsíonn sé clár maoinithe taighde seachtrach timpeall €8 milliún in aghaidh na bliana Fhoras na Mara agus tá sé ina bhall de Ghrúpa Forfheidhmithe Nuálaíochta 2020 Rialtas na hÉireann agus de Ghrúpa Ardleibhéil Fhís Eoprach. I mí na Samhna 2020, toghadh é ina Chathaoirleach ar an gComhthionscnamh Eorpach um Chlárú ar Muir agus Aigéin Shláintiúla agus Tháirgiúla.



Joe Silke, Stiúrthóir ar Sheirbhísí um Chomhshaoil Mara agus Sábháilteacht Bia (MEFSS)

Tá Dioplóma Náisiúnta san Eolaíocht Uisceach ag Joe ó Choláiste Teicniúil Réigiúnach na Gaillimhe (Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh anois) agus Máistreacht san Eolaíocht Chomhshaoil ó Choláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath. Thosaigh sé a ghairm bheatha san uiscíothrú, ag obair i gclóis ghorraithe sliogiasc agus in áiseanna fásaithe a dhírigh ar mhodhanna táirgthe nuálacha sna 1980idí sular aistrigh sé chuig taighde i bhfíteaplancton, aigéaneolaíocht agus forbairt uiscíothraithe muirí.

Le taithí fhairsing aige i measúnú riosca, rialú cáilíochta agus monatóireacht chomhshaoil, bhí Joe ina cheannaire ar Fhoireann Shábháilteachta na Sliogiasc i bhForas na Mara, ag tabhairt comhairle don Rialtas, don tionscal agus do thomhaltóirí maidir le sábháilteacht bia. Tá próifíl idirnáisiúnta aige, agus é tar éis feidhmiú mar shaineolaí AE ar theiscine sliogiasc, cur le hobair an Chodex, agus a bheith ina Chathaoirleach ar ghrúpa oibre ICES ar dhinimic Bhlás Algach Dhochracha agus ar an bPainéal Idir-Rialtasach FAO-IOC ar Bhlás Algach Dhochracha.

Mar Stiúrthóir ar Sheirbhísí Comhshaoil Muirí agus Sábháilteachta Bia (MEFSS), tá Joe i bhfeighil ar fhoirne seirbhíse eolaíochta a thacaíonn le beartas an Rialtais i leith sábháilteacht bia mara, ceadúnú agus pleanáil, inbhuanaitheacht mhuirí, sláinte éisc, agus farraigí glana. Cuimsíonn a ról maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar mheasúnuithe, ar chláir mhonatóireachta, agus ar thionscnaimh taighde a threoraíonn cinntí rialála agus bainistíocht chomhshaoil. Oibríonn sé go dlúth le gníomhaireachtaí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta, ag cinntiú comhlíonta le caighdeáin AE agus domhanda agus ag cur le heolas eolaíoch ar éiceachórais mhuirí.



Dr Ciaran Kelly, Stiúrthóir ar Sheirbhísí Comhairleacha Éiceachórais Iascaigh (FEAS)

Fuair Ciaran oiliúint mar bhitheolaí mara agus ina dhiaidh sin mar eolaí iascaigh, le céim ó Choláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath agus PhD ó Choláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath. Tá baint aige le soláthar comhairle do bhainisteoirí rialtais agus do lucht déanta beartas le breis agus 20 bliain, ag obair go náisiúnta agus trí eagraíochtaí idirnáisiúnta amhail an Chomhairle Idirnáisiúnta um Thaiscéalaíocht na Mara (ICES) agus an Coiste Eolaíoch, Teicniúil agus Eacnamaíoch um Iascach (STECF).

D'oibrigh Ciarán roimhe seo mar bhainisteoir comhairle comhtháite, agus mar bhainisteoir ar an Oifig Taighde agus Forbartha ag Foras na Mara a bhí freagrach as pleanáil agus reachtáil chlár Náisiúnta Infheistíochta Taighde Mara Fhoras na Mara.

Tá sé ina Stiúrthóir ar Sheirbhísí Comhairleacha Éiceachórais Iascaigh (FEAS) an Fhorais, a dhéanann measúnuithe acmhainne ar stoic éisc

tráchtála, a sholáthraíonn comhairle agus tacaíocht beartais don Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara (RTBM) agus don Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht (RTRÁO), agus déanann sé taighde ar éiceachórais mhuirí, stoic éisc agus do bharshaothrú.



Liam Lacey, Stiúrthóir Oifig Forbartha Muirí na hÉireann (IMDO)

Is Comhalta é Liam d'Institiúid na gCuntasóirí Poiblí Deimhnithe in Éirinn agus tá Céim Mháistreachta aige sa bhainistíocht ó Choláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath. Sula ndeachaigh sé leis an IMDO, thug Liam léachtaí i réimse na bainistíochta straitéisí agus na nuálaíochta in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Má Nuad.

D'oibrigh sé roimhe seo le Irish Continental Group mar Stiúrthóir Bainistíochta ar an Rannán Coimeádán agus Teirminéil. Tá taithí fhairsing aige ar loingseoireacht, cairtfhostú agus forbairt calafoirt. Bhí Liam ina bhall de Chomhairle Iompair IBEC a dhéanann ionadaíocht ar thuairimí an tionscail i réimse an iompair agus na lóistíochta.

COMHALTAÍ BOIRD

(amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024)



Dermot Clohessy B.Sc Eng
(2015 - 2020) (2021 - 2026)

Tá tuiscint fhairsing ag Dermot Clohessy ar infheistíocht dhíreach eachtrach (FDI) tar éis dó a bheith ag obair le GFT Éireann le 28 bliain. Bhí sé ina Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin/COO ar an IDA ó 2006 go 2015. Le linn a ghairmréime leis an eagraíocht, bhí freagracht cheannaireachta air thar gach príomhréimsí feidhme den eagraíocht. Tá eolas láidir agus taithí aige ar fhorbairt agus ar chur i bhfeidhm straitéise, ag déileáil le rialachas corparáideach, lena n-áirítear comhlíonadh agus soláthar laistigh den earnáil phoiblí.

Bhí Dermot ina bhall den Tascfhórsa Forbartha a bunaíodh chun tacú le feidhmiú *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – an integrated marine plan for Ireland*. Bhí sé ina Chathaoirleach ar cheann dá fhochoistí chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar an gclár Forbartha Gnó, Margaíochta agus Cur Chun Cinn a d'fhéach le teachtaireacht shoiléir a chur chuig infheisteoirí go bhfuil Éire oscailte do ghnó muirí agus gur áit mhaith í le déanamh.

Ó d'fhág sé GFT Éireann in 2015, oibríonn Dermot go hidirnáisiúnta anois mar chomhairleoir straitéiseach ar raon an-leathan tionscadal ar infheistíocht agus ar fhorbairt gnó idirnáisiúnta, don earnáil phríobháideach agus phoiblí araon. Díríonn a chuid oibre ar chur i bhfeidhm straitéise, tógáil inniúlachta agus forbairt gnó idirnáisiúnta áit a bhfuil a shaineolas ar bhainistíocht feidhmithe. Is Innealtóir

é Dermot ó thaobh gairme, le cáilíochtaí breise i Straitéis Gnó agus Cuntasaíocht & Airgeadas.



Dr Berna Grist B.L.
(2015-2028)

Tá an Dr Berna Grist B.L., abhcóide agus pleanálaí baile cairte, ina hOllamh Cúnta i Scoil na hAiltireachta, Pleanála agus Beartais Timpeallachta sa Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath. Tá PhD aici ó Ollscoil Uladh ar *The Legislative and Regulatory Framework for Development in the Republic of Ireland* agus tá sí ag cleachtadh mar abhcóide le barra ó 1991 i leith, le speisialtóireacht i gcomhairliúchán agus i gcomhairleacht ar dhlí pleanála agus comhshaoil.

Tá foilseacháin mhóra déanta ag Berna i réimsí an dlí phleanála agus chomhshaoil, beartas poiblí agus rialachais. In éineacht leis an ndlíodóir nach maireann James Macken SC, ba chomh-eagarthóir í ar an leabhar *Irish Planning Law Factbook* (2003), a nuashonraigh sí go bliantúil go dtí gur tosaíodh ar achtú An tAcht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2024 trí Oireachtas na hÉireann. I 2012, d'fhoilsigh sí an dara heagrán de *An Introduction to Irish Planning Law*. Chuir sí le roinnt tionscadal taighde comhshaoil atá urraithe ag an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA) agus tá sí ina ball de Chumann Dlí Comhshaoil na hÉireann (IELA).

Ceapadh Berna ina Leas-Chathaoirleach ar an mBord Achomhairc um Cheadúnais

Dobharshaothraithe nuair a bunaíodh é in 1998. Idir 2001 agus 2006, d'oibrigh sí mar bhall de Bord Pleanála agus i 2013, ceapadh í ar an nGrúpa Saineolaithe a bhí ag tabhairt comhairle don Aire Tithíochta agus Pleanála maidir le hoidhre ar *Straitéis Spásúil Náisiúnta 2002–2020*. Tá sí tar éis freastal ar roinnt Bord Stáit agus tá sí faoi láthair ina stiúrthóir le Comhlacht Chalafoirt Bhaile Átha Cliath.



Aodh O Domhnaill
(2021 – 2026)

Is as Co. Dhún na nGall ó dhúchas d'Aodh Ó Domhnaill. Tá sé ina Phríomhfheidhmeannach ar Eagraíocht Táirgeoirí Éisc na hÉireann (IFPO) agus roimhe seo ina Stiúrthóir Díolacháin Idirnáisiúnta le Cuan Earagail, próiseálaí agus easpórtálaí sliogéisc atá lonnaithe sa Ghaeltacht. I measc a chuid freagrachtaí sa ról bhí forbairt leanúnach ar mhargaí idirnáisiúnta bia mara, le fócas ar leith ar chríocha na hÁise, na SA agus Chríoch Lochlann.

I mí an Mhárta 2022, ghlac Aodh le post POF an IFPO, comhlacht a bunaíodh i 1975. Déanann an IFPO ionadaíocht ar úinéirí soithí iascaireachta mhara tráchtála de gach méid sna hearnálacha Peiligeach, Éisc Geal, Sliogéisc agus Cladaigh. Tá cúram ar an Eagraíocht maidir le gníomhaíochtaí iascaireachta na gcomhaltaí a bhainistiú, idir ghabháil agus margaíocht, d'fhonn an úsáid is fearr a bhaint as na stoic éisc atá ar fáil agus torthaí a bharrfheabhsú.

Tá baint fhairsing agus ar feadh an tsaoil ag Aodh leis an earnáil bia mara agus d'oibrigh sé i róil shinsearachta in oibríochtaí, i ndíolacháin agus i margaíocht. Bhí sé ina bhall coiste de Chumann Próiseálaithe agus Onnmhaiseoirí Éisc na hÉireann (IFPEA) agus ar Choiste Comhairleach Peiligeach an Iarthuaiscirt. D'fhóin an tUasal Ó Domhnaill mar

Chathaoirleach ar Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn (LYIT) ar feadh téarma ceithre bliana ó 2007 go 2011 freisin.

Cainteoir dúchais Gàidhlig é Aodh agus tá bunchéim aige ó Choláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath. Tá Dioplóma Deimhnithe aige sa Chuntasaíocht agus Airgeadas agus MBA ón Ollscoil Oscailte.



Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher
(2021 – 2026)

Le breis agus fiche bliain de thaithí ar an aigéaneolaíocht oibríochtúil, tá speisialtóireacht ag Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher i gcórais baoithe sonraí fíor-ama agus i suirbhéanna meiticéineacha le haghaidh innealtóireacht chósta agus feidhmeanna fuinnimh in-athnuaite amach ón gcósta.

Chomhbhunaigh Charlotte TechWorks Marine agus tá sí ina Bainisteoir Stiúrtha ar an gcuideachta. Faoi stiúir Charlotte, d'fhorbair TechWorks Marine ó choincheap fiontraíochta go soláthraí seirbhísí sonraí muirí a bhfuil aitheantas idirnáisiúnta bainte amach aige, ag tacú le cliaint le hoibríochtaí muirí a bharrfheabhsú trí theicneolaíochtaí monatóireachta chun cinn.

Tá céim aici i nAcmhainní Comhshaoil ó Ollscoil Kingston, Céim Mháistreachta san Aigéaneolaíocht ó University College of Wales, Bangor, agus Dioplóma Iarchéime i mDíolacháin Idirnáisiúnta ó Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath (TU Dublin). Faoin gceannaireacht atá aici ar TechWorks Marine bronnadh an Digital Ocean Achievement Award (2017) uirthi agus ainmníodh í mar cheann de na craobhiomaitheoir do Ghradam Nuálaíochta The Irish Times (2019). Tá conarthaí iolracha de chuid Ghníomhaireacht Spáis na hEorpa (ESA) comhordaithe aici i mbreathnóireacht

domhainmhuirí le deich mbliana anuas, ag comhtháthú sonraí satailíte le tomhais in-situ chun seirbhísí nuálacha sonraí muirí a fhorbairt. Mar mheasúnóir don Choimisiún Eorpach agus mar chainteoir minic ag comhdhálacha, is abhcóide í Charlotte ar réitigh monatóireachta muirí in am ffor.

Bhí sí ina cathaoirleach ar Women in Technology and Science (WITS) agus ar an Lycée Française d'Irlande, rud a léiríonn tiomantas leanúnach do oideachas ETIM agus comhionannas inscne. Faoi láthair, tá sí ag glacadh páirte i bhFóram Tionscail Fuinnimh Gaoithe Amach ón gCósta na Roinne Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta (DETE) agus i nGrúpa Saineolaithe Roinn na Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide (DECC) ar Shonraí d'Fhuinneamh In-athnuaite Amach ón gCósta (ORE).

Le bliain anuas, tá sí ceaptha ag Comhaltaí an Bhoird mar chathaoirleach ar chruinnithe bhoird Fhoras na Mara, mar aithint ar a saineolas rialachais agus ar bheartas mara.

Mar mharaí gníomhach, glacann sí páirt go rialta i ngníomhaíochtaí seoltóireachta i mBá Átha Cliath i rith na bliana.



Tom Tynan
(2021 – 2025)

Bhain Tom Tynan cáil amach ina ghairm sa talmhaíocht. Fuair sé a chuid oideachais i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh (UCG), Coláiste na hOllscoile Baile Átha Cliath (UCD), Coláiste Ollscoile Harper Adams, Shropshire agus Scoil Ghnó Iarchéime Michael Smurfit, UCD, agus tá Céim san Eolaíocht Talmhaíochta agus Máistreacht sa Ghnó aige. Bhuaigh sé Gradam Alumni UCD 2015 ó Scoil na Talmhaíochta agus na hEolaíochta Bia UCD.

D'oibrigh Tom thar raon réimsí agra-ghnó agus beartais áit a raibh ról éagsúla bainistíochta sinsearaí aige. Bhí sé ina Stiúrthóir Tráchtála ar Agra-ghnó IAWS agus ina dhiaidh sin ina Phríomhoifigeach Oibriúcháin ar Welcon AS, an Iorua. D'oibrigh sé mar Chomhairleoir Speisialta don Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Foraoiseachta i rialtas na hÉireann. Chaith sé sé bliana mar Chomhalta den Chomh-Aireacht i gComh-Aireachta Trádála agus Talmhaíochta & Forbartha Tuaithe Choimisinéir an AE, áit a raibh margaí talmhaíochta, leigheasanna trádála, taighde, forbairt & nuálaíocht, bithghéilleagar agus biteicneolaíocht i measc a fhreagrachtaí punainne.

Faoi láthair, sa bhreis ar an ról seo mar Stiúrthóir Neamhfheidhmiúcháin ar Fhoras na Mara, tá Tom ar Bhord Chuideachta Chalafort na Sionainne agus Fhainge (ROI) agus Institiúid na mBith-eolaíochtaí Talmhaíochta agus Bia (Tuaisceart Éireann). Bhí poist aige roimhe seo ar Bhord Teagasc (Údarás Forbartha Talmhaíochta agus Bia na hÉireann), Agri-Aware agus ar Bhord Comhairleach Eolaíochta Alltech. Is ball d'Institiúid Stiúrthóirí (IoD) Éireann é.



Kate Burns
(2024 – 2029)

Is saineolaí ar acmhainní mara agus tuaithe í Kate Burns agus bunaitheoir agus Stiúrthóir Bainistíochta Islander Kelp Ltd. Tá breis agus 14 bliana de thaithí aici ag obair ar shaincheistanna acmhainní mara agus breis agus 30 bliain i mbainistíocht. Trína cuid oibre i mbia mara, saothrú ceilp, agus pleanáil bainistíochta iascaigh cois cladaigh, tá tuiscint dhomhain ag Kate ar ról na heolaíochta muirí agus ar ról na hearnála iascaigh. Thacaigh sí le Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) chun straitéisí FLAG AE a ullmhú do gach ceann de na sé réigiún FLAG in Éirinn i 2013 agus 2014. Mar chuid de thréimhse Kate mar Stiúrthóir Tionscnaimh le hInstitiúid Taighde Mhurascaill Mhainistir na Maine, rinneadh maoirseacht ar chlár tacaíochta d'iascairí agus iad ag aistriú chun bainistíocht scaireanna a ghabháil.

Bhí Kate ina Ceann Forbartha Eacnamaíochta roimhe seo do Chomhairle Buirge Chósta an Chaisleáin agus na nGleannta (Coleraine ina dhiaidh sin), agus ina dhiaidh sin ceapadh í mar Phríomhfheidhmeannach ar an gcomhlacht trasteorann, Lónra Cheantar Teorann Lárnach na hÉireann in 2002, a bhí freagrach as Bearta Cláir INTERREG IIIA a chur i bhfeidhm. Bhí sí ar conradh mar Stiúrthóir ar Chomhairle Athfhoirgníochta agus Athlonnaithe na Cipire agus d'ullmhaigh sí go leor pleananna gnó, meastóireachtaí agus straitéisí LEADER etc. do raon cliant thar 20 bliain.

Tá MSc aici i bhForbairt Tuaithe ó Ollscoil na Banríona, Béal Feirste, Diplóma i gCleachtas Forbartha Pobail ó Choláiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh agus BSc san Eacnamaíocht & sa Pholaitíocht ón Open University. D'fhóin Kate mar bhall boird den AFBI (Institiúid Eolaíochtaí Talmhaíochta & Bhia) agus bhí sí ina Cathaoirleach ar an gCoiste

Straitéise Eolaíochta. Chríochnaigh sí ocht mbliana freisin ar Bhord Choláiste Met Bhéal Feirste, Údarás Chuan Iascaigh Thuaisceart Éireann agus bhí sí ina Cathaoirleach ar Iontaobhas Carthanachta Met Bhéal Feirste. Faoi láthair, tá sí ina Cathaoirleach ar Fhondúireacht Leslie agus ina ball boird ar Ghrúpa Oidhreacht Mhuirí Chósta an Chlocháin.



Pauline Cronin
(2024 – 2029)

Is Cuntasóir Poiblí Deimhnithe í Pauline Cronin agus tá MSC aige san Eacnamaíocht agus sa Bheartas, le béim ar leith ar rialachas corparáideach san earnáil phoiblí. Ó 2020 i leith, tá sí ina comhalta seachtarach de Choiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca Fhoras na Mara. Le 20 bliain anuas, tá sí ag obair i Státseirbhís na hÉireann ag fáil taithí ar iniúchóireacht, soláthar agus bainistíocht riosca san earnáil phoiblí. Faoi láthair tá sí ag obair mar Stiúrthóir Iniúchta Inmheánaigh agus Riosca in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, agus tugann sí dearbhú d'Uachtarán na hOllscoile agus don Choiste Iniúchóireachta agus Riosca maidir le leordhóthanacht chreat rialachais foriomlán na heagraíochta, lena n-áirítear a córas rialaithe inmheánaigh.

Roimhe sin, d'oibrigh Pauline mar Cheann na hIniúchóireachta Inmheánaí sa Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide, ag stiúradh na feidhme iniúchóireachta. Bhí sí in Oifig an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste ar feadh breis agus 10 mbliana agus, ina dhiaidh sin, leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach sa Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna.



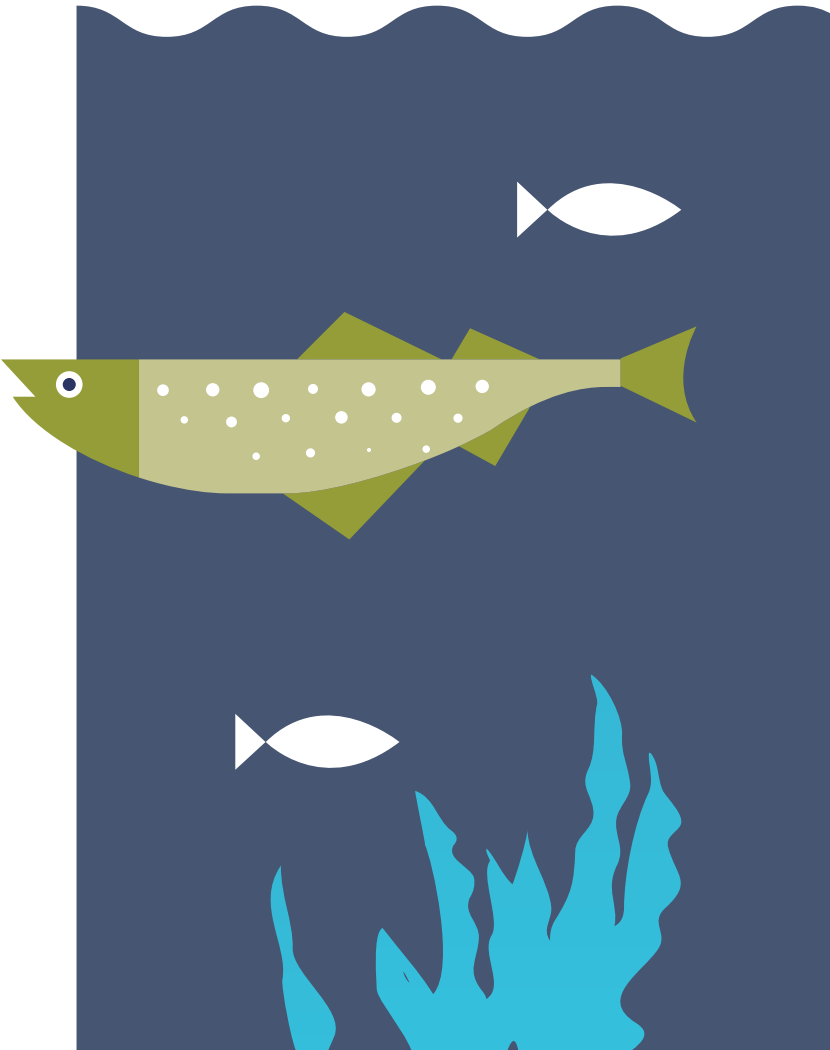
An tOllamh Tim McCarthy
(2024 – 2029)

Tá an tOllamh Tim McCarthy ina Ollamh i Roinn na hEolaíochta Ríomhaireachta, agus ina Phríomh-Imscrúdaitheoir (PI) atá lonnaithe san Ionad Náisiúnta Geo-ríomhaireachta (NCG) in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad. Tá breis agus tríocha bliain taithí T&F aige i mBreathnóireacht na Cruinne, Eolaíocht Faisnéise Geografaí agus Geo-ríomhaireacht. Le cúig bliana déag anuas i Maigh Nuad, bhí sé i gceannas ar 32 thionscadal taighde a fuair maoiniú seachtrach (le maoiniú gaolmhar de €28milliún). Tá saineolas ar leith aige i dTeicneolaíochtaí Sonraí Muirí.

Tá príomhinniúlachtaí ag Tim i dTeicneolaíochtaí Sonraí Digiteacha agus sa Digitiú le taithí a fuarthas i ról cheannaireachta sinsearaí Taighde, Teicneolaíochta, Forbartha agus Nuálaíochta (RTDI), ar an leibhéal náisiúnta agus ar an leibhéal Eorpach. I measc na ról gníomhach atá ag RTDI faoi láthair tá comhcheannaireacht a dhéanamh ar thionscadal ilmhilliún Euro, ‘Terrain-AI’, ag déileáil leis an Athrú Aeráide, ag comhordú tionscadal il-gheallsealbhóra de chuid Ghníomhaireacht Spáis na hEorpa (ESA) ‘Treo-Aimsitheoir Faireachais Mhuirí an Atlantaigh’, agus seach-chuideachta trí Theicneolaíocht Sonraí d’Fhiontair Bheaga agus Mheánmhéide.

Tá Tim ina bhall de cheithre choiste / grúpa oibre, lena n-áirítear clár Copernicus um Fhaireachán Domhanda sa Bhruiséil, agus ceapadh é ina Thoscaire Náisiúnta Éireannach sa bhliain 2015. Soláthraíonn sé tacaíocht RTDI don Tionscal, lena n-áirítear roinnt fiontar nuathionscanta, le fócas ar Eolaíocht & Teicneolaíocht Gheospásúil, Córais Tacaíochta Cinnidh Spásúla, agus Intleacht Shaorga.

Tá BSc sa Gheolaíocht & Mata ag Tim ó Choláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, MSc i Cianbhraiteacht ó Choláiste Ollscoile Londain agus PhD in Ollscoil Eolaíochta Geospásúil Londan (Birkbeck).



RÁITIS AIRGEADAIS

(don bhliain dár chríoch 2024)

CLÁR ÁBHAR

Tuarascáil an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste	107
Ráiteas Rialachais agus Tuarascáil Chomhaltaí an Bhoird	109
Ráiteas maidir le Rialú Inmheánach	115
Ráiteas ar an gcuntas loncaim agus Caiteachais agus ar Chúlchistí loncaim Coimeádta	120
Ráiteas ar loncam Cuimsitheach	121
Ráiteas ar Staid an Airgeadais	122
Ráiteas ar Shreafaí Airgid	123
Nótaí a ghabhann leis na Ráitis Airgeadais	124



An tArd-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste

An tArd-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste

Tuarascáil le cur i láthair do Thithe an Oireachtais

Foras na Mara

Tuairim ar na ráitis airgeadais

Rinne mé iniúchadh ar ráitis airgeadais Fhoras na Mara don bhliain dar chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2024 mar a cheanglaítear faoi fhorálacha alt 12 den Acht um Fhoras na Mara 1991.

- an ráiteas ioncaim agus caiteachais agus cúlchistí ioncaim coinnithe,
- an ráiteas ioncaim chuimsithigh
- an ráiteas ar an staid airgeadais
- an ráiteas ar shreabhadh airgid, agus
- na nótaí gaolmhara, lena n-áirítear achoimre ar bheartais shuntasacha chuntasaíochta.

Is é mo thuairim go dtugann na ráitis airgeadais léargas fíor agus cothrom ar shócmhainní, dliteanais agus staid airgeadais Fhoras na Mara an 31 Nollaig 2024 agus ar a ioncam agus ar a chaiteachas le haghaidh 2024 i gcomhréir le Caighdeán Tuairiscithe Airgeadais (FRS) 102 – An *Caighdeán Tuairiscithe Airgeadais is infheidhme sa Ríocht Aontaithe agus i bPoblacht na hÉireann*.

Bunús na tuairime

Rinne mé m'iniúchadh ar na ráitis airgeadais de réir na gCaighdeán Idirnáisiúnta Iniúcháireachta (ISAnna) arna bhfógairt ag Eagraíocht Idirnáisiúnta na bhForas Iniúcháireachta Uachtarach. Déantar cur síos ar mo chuid freagrachtaí faoi na caighdeáin sin san aguisín leis an tuarascáil seo. Táim neamhspleách ar Fhoras na Mara agus tá mo fhreagrachtaí eiticiúla eile comhlíonta agam de réir na gcaighdeán.

Creidim gur leor agus gur cuí an fhianaise iniúchta atá faighte agam chun bonn a chur le mo thuairim.

Tuarascáil ar fhaisnéis seachas na ráitis airgeadais, agus ar ábhair eile

Tá faisnéis áirithe eile curtha i láthair ag Foras na Mara mar aon leis na ráitis airgeadais. Cuimsítear leis seo: an tuarascáil bhliantúil, an ráiteas rialachais agus tuarascáil chomhaltaí an Bhoird, agus an ráiteas maidir le rialú inmheánach. Tá cur síos san aguisín a ghabhann leis an tuarascáil seo ar mo fhreagrachtaí tuairisc a thabhairt maidir le faisnéis den sórt sin, agus ar ábhair áirithe eile ar a dtuairiscím trí eisceacht.

Níl aon rud le tuairisciú agam maidir leis sin.

Andrew Harkness

Thar ceann agus thar ceann an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste

27 Meitheamh 2025

Aguisín leis an tuarascáil

Freagrachtaí chomhaltaí an Bhoird

Mar atá sonraithe sa ráiteas rialachais agus tuarascáil chomhaltaí an Bhoird, tá comhaltaí an Bhoird freagrach as

- ráitis airgeadais bhliantúla a ullmhú san fhoirm a fhorordaítear faoi alt 12 d'Acht Fhoras na Mara 1991
- a chinntiú go dtugann na ráitis airgeadais léargas fíor agus cothrom de réir FRS 102
- rialtacht na n-idirbheart a chinntiú
- measúnú a dhéanamh le feiceáil má tá úsáid bhonn chuntasaíochta an ghnóthais leantaigh oiriúnach, agus
- rialú inmheánach mar sin de réir mar a chinneann siad atá riachtanach chun ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú atá saor ó mhíríteas ábhartha, cibé acu de bharr calaoise nó earráide.

Freagrachtaí an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste

Ceanglaítear orm faoi alt 12 d'Acht Fhoras na Mara 1991 ráitis airgeadais Fhoras na Mara a iniúchadh agus tuairisc a thabhairt orthu do Thithe an Oireachtais.

Is é an cuspóir atá agam agus an t-iniúchadh á dhéanamh agam ná dearbhú réasúnta a fháil maidir le cibé an bhfuil na ráitis airgeadais ina iomláine saor ó mhíríteas ábhartha mar gheall ar chalaois nó earráid. Is leibhéal ard dearbhaithe é dearbhú réasúnta, ach ní ráthaíocht é go mbraithfidh iniúchadh a dhéantar de réir na ISAnna míráiteas ábhartha i gcónaí nuair atá sé ann. Féadfaidh míráitis eascairt as calaois nó botún agus meastar iad a bheith ábhartha más féidir a bheith ag súil go réasúnta go n-imreodh siad tionchar, go haonair nó go comhiomlán, ar chinntí eacnamaíocha a dhéanann úsáideoirí ar bhonn na ráiteas.

Mar chuid d'iniúchadh de réir na ISAnna, feidhmím breithiúnas gairmiúil agus coinním amhras gairmiúil ar fud an iniúchta. Agus é sin á dhéanamh,

- Aithním agus déanaim measúnú ar na rioscaí a bhaineann le míráiteas ábhartha na ráiteas airgeadais cibé acu mar gheall ar chalaois nó earráid; nósanna imeachta iniúchta a dhearadh agus a chomhlíonadh atá freagrúil do na rioscaí sin; agus fianaise iniúchta a fháil atá leordhóthanach agus cuí chun bunús a sholáthar do mo thuairim. Tá an baol ann nach mbraitear míráiteas ábhartha a eascraíonn as calaois níos airde ná ceann a eascraíonn as earráid, toisc go bhféadfadh claonpháirteachas, brionnú, easnaimh d'aon ghnó, mífhaisnéisí, nó sárú rialaithe inmheánaigh a bheith i gceist le calaois.
- Faighim tuiscint ar rialú inmheánach a bhaineann leis an iniúchadh d'fhonn nósanna imeachta iniúchta a dhearadh atá oiriúnach sna cúinsí, ach ní chun tuairim a nochtadh maidir le héifeachtacht na rialuithe inmheánacha.
- Déanaim meastóireacht ar oiriúnacht na mbeartas cuntasaíochta a úsáidtear agus réasúntacht na meastachán cuntasaíochta agus nochtadh gaolmhar.

- Tagaim ar chonclúid maidir le hoiriúnacht úsáid bhonn cuntasaíochta an ghnóthais leantaigh agus, bunaithe ar an bhfianaise iniúcháireachta a fuarthas, maidir le cé acu atá nó nach bhfuil éiginnteacht ábhartha ann a bhaineann le himeachtaí nó coinníollacha a d'fhéadfadh amhras suntasach a chaitheamh ar chumas Fhoras na Mara leanúint ar aghaidh mar ghnóthas leantach. Má chinnim go bhfuil éiginnteacht ábhartha ann, ceanglaítear orm aird a tharraingt i mo thuarascáil ar na nochtuithe gaolmhara sna ráitis airgeadais nó, mura leor na nochtuithe sin, mo thuairim a mhodhnú. Tá mo chonclúidí bunaithe ar an bhfianaise iniúchta a fuarthas suas go dtí dáta mo thuarascála. hMar sin féin, d'fhéadfadh imeachtaí nó coinníollacha amach anseo a bheith ina gcúis le Foras na Mara scor de bheith ag leanúint ar aghaidh mar ghnóthas leantach.
- Déanaim meastóireacht ar léiriú, struchtúr agus ábhar foriomlán na ráiteas airgeadais, lena n-áirítear na nochtuithe, agus cibé an ionann na ráitis airgeadais agus na hidirbhearta agus na himeachtaí bunúsacha ar bhealach a bhaineann léiriú cothrom amach.

Déanaim cumarsáid leo siúd a bhfuil sé de chúram orthu rialachas maidir le, i measc nithe eile, scóip phleanáilte agus uainiú an iniúchta agus torthaí suntasacha iniúchta, lena n-áirítear aon easnaimh shuntasacha i rialú inmheánach a aithním le linn m'iniúchta.

Tuairiscím trí eisceacht más rud é, i mo thuairim,

- Nach bhfuair mé an t-eolas agus na mínithe ar fad a theastaigh uaim le haghaidh m'iniúchta, nó
- níor leor na taifid chuntasaíochta chun cead a thabhairt na ráitis airgeadais a iniúchadh go héasca agus go cuí, nó
- níl na ráitis airgeadais ar aon intinn leis na taifid chuntasaíochta.

Faisnéis seachas na ráitis airgeadais

Ní chlúdaíonn mo thuairim ar na ráitis airgeadais an fhaisnéis eile a chuirtear i láthair leis na ráitis sin, agus ní chuirim aon chineál conclúide dearbhaithe in iúl air.

Maidir le m'iniúchadh ar na ráitis airgeadais, ceanglaítear orm faoi na ISAnna an fhaisnéis eile a chuirtear i láthair a léamh agus, lena linn sin, smaoinigh an bhfuil an fhaisnéis eile ag teacht go hábhartha leis na ráitis airgeadais nó le faisnéis rthas le linn an iniúchta, nó más cosúil go bhfuil mí-iompar ábhartha á déanamh uirthi ar shlí eile. Más rud é, bunaithe ar an obair a rinne mé, go dtugaim i gcrích go bhfuil míráiteas ábhartha ar an bhfaisnéis eile seo, ceanglaítear orm an fhíric sin a thuairisciú.

Ag tuairisciú ar nithe eile

Déantar m'iniúchadh trí thagairt do na cúinsí speisialta a ghabhann le comhlachtaí Stáit maidir lena mbainistíocht agus lena n-oibriú. Tuairiscím má aithním ábhair a bhaineann leis an mbealach a ndéanadh gnó poiblí.

Féachaim le fianaise a fháil faoi rialtacht na n-idirbheart airgeadais le linn iniúchta. Tuairiscím má aithním aon chás ábhartha nuair nár cuireadh airgead poiblí i bhfeidhm chun na gcríoch a bhí beartaithe nó nuair nár chloígh idirbhearta leis na húdaráis a rialaíonn iad.

RÁITEAS RIALACHAIS AGUS TUARASCÁIL CHOMHALTAÍ AN BHOIRD

Rialachas

Bunaíodh Bord Fhoras na Mara faoin Acht um Fhoras na Mara, 1991. Tá feidhmeanna an Bhoird leagtha amach in Alt 3 den Acht seo. Tá an Bord freagrach don Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus tá sé freagrach as dea-rialachas a chinntiú, agus comhlíonann sé an ról seo trí chuspóirí agus spriocanna straitéiseacha a leagan síos, agus trí chinntí straitéiseacha a dhéanamh maidir le gach príomhcheist ghnó. Is iad an Príomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin (POF) agus an fhoireann bhainistíochta shinsearach atá freagrach as bainistíocht laethúil, rialú agus stiúradh Fhoras na Mara. Ní mór don POF agus don fhoireann bainistíochta sinsearaí cloí leis an treoir straitéiseach leathan atá leagtha síos ag an mBord, agus a chinntiú go bhfuil tuiscint shoiléir ag comhaltaí uile an Bhoird ar na príomhghníomhaíochtaí agus na príomhchinntí a bhaineann leis an eintiteas, agus ar aon rioscaí suntasacha is dócha a thiocfaidh chun cinn. Feidhmíonn an POF mar idirchaidreamh díreach idir an Bord agus bainistíocht Fhoras na Mara. De réir Acht Fhoras na Mara, comhlíonann an Bord a dhualgais mar atá leagtha amach thíos.

Freagrachtaí an Bhoird

Tá obair agus freagrachtaí an Bhoird leagtha amach i mBuan-Orduithe an *Bhoird*, i *Sceideal na nÁbhar do Chinneadh an Bhoird* agus i *Róil an Bhoird*, an *Chathaoirligh*, an *POF* agus *Rúnaí an Bhoird*, ina bhfuil freisin na nithe a fhorchoimeádtar go sonrach do chinneadh an Bhoird. I measc na míreanna seasta a bhreithnigh an Bord le linn na tréimhse bhí:

- Dearbhú leasanna
- Tuarascálacha ó choistí
- Ráitis airgeadais agus míreanna caiteachais os cionn €150,000
- Cur i bhfeidhm straitéise agus
- Ceisteanna arna bhforchoimeád.

Soláthraíonn Bord Fhoras na Mara ceannaireacht agus treoir straitéiseach don eagraíocht, ag sainiú cuspóir an Fhorais agus ag forbairt na mbeartas a theastaíonn chun a spriocanna a bhaint amach. Socraíonn an Bord táscairí feidhmíochta agus déanann sé dul chun cinn a thomhas ina gcoinne sin, ag déanamh dlúthmhonatóireacht ar bhuiséid agus ar fheidhmíocht airgeadais. Treoraíonn an Bord an eagraíocht maidir le hiompar eiticiúil agus ar bhealach a thagann le croíluachanna agus cultúr na heagraíochta.

Faoi Alt 12 den Acht um Fhoras na Mara, 1991 ceanglaítear ar Bhord Fhoras na Mara na cuntais go léir is cuí agus is gnách ar an airgead a gheobhaidh sé nó a chaithfidh sé a choimeád i cibé foirm a cheadóidh an tAire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara le toiliú an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadta ar an bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta, agus Athchóirithe.

Agus na ráitis airgeadais seo á n-ullmhú, ceanglaítear ar Bhord Fhoras na Mara:

- beartais chuntasaíochta oiriúnacha a roghnú agus iad a chur i bhfeidhm go comhsheasmhach,
- breithiúnais agus meastacháin a dhéanamh atá réasúnach agus stuama,
- na ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú ar bhonn gnóthais leantaigh ach amháin má tá sé míchuí a thiomhdiú go leanfaidh sé de bheith ag feidhmiú, agus
- a lua cibé acu ar leanadh nó nár leanadh caighdeáin chuntasaíochta infheidhmithe, faoi réir aon imeacht ábhartha arna nochtadh agus arna míniú sna ráitis airgeadais.

Tá an Bhoird freagrach as taifid chuntasaíochta leordhóthanacha a choinneáil a nochtann, le cruinneas réasúnta ag aon tráth, a staid airgeadais agus a chuireann ar a chumas a chinntiú go gcomhlíonann na ráitis airgeadais le hAlt 12 den Acht um Fhoras na Mara, 1991. Is é an Bord atá freagrach as cothabháil agus sláine na faisnéise corparáidí agus airgeadais ar shuíomh Gréasáin Fhoras na Mara.

Tá an Bord freagrach as an bplean bliantúil agus an buiséad a cheadú. Tá an Bord freagrach freisin as a shócmhainní a chosaint agus mar sin as céimeanna réasúnta a ghlacadh chun calaois agus neamhrialtachtaí eile a chosc agus a bhrath.

Measann an Bord go dtugann ráitis airgeadais Fhoras na Mara léargas fíor agus cothrom ar fheidhmíocht airgeadais agus ar staid airgeadais Fhoras na Mara don bhliain dar chríoch 31 Nollaig 2024 agus amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024, faoi seach.

Struchtúr an Bhoird

Tá an Bord comhdhéanta de Chathaoirleach agus ochtar gnáthchomhalta, agus is é an tAire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara a cheapann gach duine díobh. Ceapadh comhaltaí an Bhoird ar feadh tréimhse chúig bliana agus tháinig siad le chéile dhá uair déag i 2024. Sonraítear sa tábla thíos an tréimhse cheapacháin do chomhaltaí reatha agus dóibh siúd a bhí in oifig le linn na tréimhse:

Comhalta Boird	Ról	Téarma oifige
John Killeen	An Cathaoirleach	Cuireadh tús leis a dhara téarma ar an 8 Eanáir 2019. Imithe ar scor ón mBord ag deireadh an téarma ar an 7 Eanáir 2024
Berna Grist	Gnáthchomhalta	Cuireadh tús lena dara téarma ar an 6 Feabhra 2018. Athcheaptha chuig an mBord ar an 6 Feabhra 2023
Dermot Clohessy	Gnáthchomhalta	Cuireadh tús lena dhara téarma ar an 4 Meitheamh 2021
Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher	Gnáthchomhalta	Cuireadh tús lena céad téarma ar an 4 Meitheamh 2021
Aodh O Domhnaill	Gnáthchomhalta	Cuireadh tús lena chéad téarma ar 4 Meitheamh 2021
Tom Tynan	Gnáthchomhalta	Cuireadh tús lena chéad téarma ar an 11 Samhain 2021. D'éirigh sé as an mBord ar an 20 Meitheamh 2025
Kate Burns	Gnáthchomhalta	Cuireadh tús lena céad téarma ar an 25 Eanáir 2024
Pauline Cronin	Gnáthchomhalta	Cuireadh tús lena céad téarma ar an 25 Eanáir 2024
Tim McCarthy	Gnáthchomhalta	Cuireadh tús lena chéad téarma ar an 25 Eanáir 2024

Comhardú Inscne i mballraíocht an Bhoird

Amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024, bhí 4 (50%) de chomhaltaí baineanna agus 4 (50%) de chomhaltaí fireanna ag an mBord. Agus folúntais Boird á líonadh le linn 2024, thug an tAire aird ar a inmhianaithe atá cothromaíocht inscne, éagsúlacht agus cuimsiú ar an mBord agus tá an t-íosmhéid ionadaíochta 40% de gach inscne comhlíonta. Go ginearálta is ar feadh tréimhse thosaigh 5 bliana a bhíonn ceapacháin chuig an mBord agus rogha an dara téarma.

An Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca

Réamhrá

Is Coiste de Bhord Fhoras na Mara é an Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca (CIR) agus, le linn na bliana dar críoch 31 Nollaig 2024, bhí na comhaltaí seo a leanas ar an gcoiste:

- Pauline Cronin (An Cathaoirleach amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024)
- Dermot Clohessy
- Charlotte O’Kelly de Gallagher
- Tom Tynan
- Sinéad Ní Fhátharta (comhalta seachtrach)

Ceapadh Pauline Cronin chuig Bord Fhoras na Mara ar an 25 Eanáir 2024 agus ceapadh í mar Chathaoirleach CIR ar an 27 Feabhra 2024. Bhí Dermot Clohessy ina Chathaoirleach Eatramhach an CIR don chruinniú in Eanáir 2024, agus líon Tom Tynan an ról don chruinniú i bhFeabhra 2024.

Ceapadh Sinéad Ní Fhátharta mar chomhalta seachtrach an CIR ar an 8 Iúil 2024. Sula ceapadh í don Bhord, bhí Pauline Cronin ina comhalta seachtrach ar an CIR.

Tá an CIR neamhspleách ar bhainistíocht airgeadais Fhoras na Mara.

Ról CIR

Is é ról an CIR maoirseacht agus comhairle a chur ar an mBord agus ar an bPríomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin maidir le nithe a bhaineann le:

- Rioscaí airgeadais, oibriúcháin agus rialachais, lena n-áirítear bainistíocht riosca iomlán;
- Éifeachtúlacht na rialuithe inmheánacha agus na bainistíochta riosca;
- Éifeachtúlacht na feidhme iniúchta inmheánaigh;
- Cumarsáid leis an Iniúcháir Inmheánach;
- Cumarsáid leis an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste;
- Nithe a d’ardaigh an tIniúcháir Inmheánach agus an tArd-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste;
- Leorgacht nósanna imeachta rialachais;
- Saincheisteanna luach ar airgead;
- Nithe eile dá leithéid a iarrann an Bord ar CIR a imscrúdú, a bhreithniú agus moltaí a dhéanamh don Bhord.

Déanann Oifig an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste iniúchadh ar Fhoras na Mara. Agus maoirseacht á déanamh aige ar an gcaidreamh leis an Iniúcháir Seachtrach, buaileann an ARC le hionadaithe Oifig an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste roimh thús an iniúchta agus arís tar éis don iniúchadh a bheith críochnaithe. Ní raibh aon ábhar imní ábhartha ag éirí as na cruinnithe sin.

Déanann an Coiste monatóireacht freisin ar shláine na ráiteas airgeadais a ullmhaíonn an Foras.

Téarmaí Tagartha

Tá téarmaí tagartha an CIR ceadaithe ag an mBord agus déantar athbhreithniú orthu ar bhonn bliantúil agus leasaítear iad de réir mar is cuí.

Coinbhleachtaí leasa

Ag gach ceann dá chruinnithe, breithníonn an ARC go bhféadfadh coinbhleachtaí leasa a bheith ann maidir lena chlár oibre agus déileáiltear le coinbhleachtaí den sórt sin de réir bheartas an Bhoird.

An Clár Oibre 2024 agus Réimsí a sainaithníodh le díriú orthu

Cheadaigh an Bord clár oibre an ARC i mí Eanáir 2024. Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar an gclár sin i mí na Nollag 2024 chun a chinntiú gur pléadh le gach ábhar i rith na bliana. Tháinig an CIR le chéile seacht n-uaire in 2024. Bhí dhá chruinniú ag an CIR leis na hiniúcháirí a rinne ionadaíocht thar ceann an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste. Tugann an CIR tuairisc ó bhéal don Bhord go díreach tar éis gach cruinnithe; cuireann sé a mhiontuairiscí i láthair an Bhoird tar éis faofa agus tuairiscíonn sé go foirmiúil don Bhord go bliantúil.

I rith na bliana, bhuail an CIR freisin le baill na foirne bainistíochta chun seisiúin faisnéise a fháil agus chun deis a bheith acu gach ceist agus moladh a phlé maidir leis na réimsí seo a leanas: an Bhainistíocht Riosca, an Phleanáil Leanúnachais Gnó, RGCS, Soláthar, TFC agus an Chibearshlándáil.

Ina theannta sin, d’iarr an CIR tuarascálacha sonracha ón Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí Corparáideacha chun a chinntiú don Choiste maidir le calaois, éilliú agus breabaireacht, caiteachas caipitiúil, comhlíonadh cánachais, agus nochtaí cosanta.

Bhí ról Chathaoirleach an Bhoird folamh ón 8 Eanáir 2024. Bhuail Cathaoirleach an CIR leis an gCathaoirleach Chruinnithe Boird Fhoras na Mara arna cheapadh ag an mBord roinnt uaireanta i rith na bliana chun saincheisteanna a bhaineann le hobair an CIR a phlé agus bealaí ina bhféadfadh an CIR cabhrú leis an mBord a chuid oibre a dhéanamh.

Dhírigh an CIR freisin ar na réimsí sonracha seo a leanas i 2024:

Athbhreithniú ar Rioscaí

Rinneadh monatóireacht leanúnach ar shaincheisteanna amhail Rioscaí Soláthair, Rioscaí a bhaineann leis an seachfhoinsiú, Rioscaí RGCS, Rioscaí Calaoise, Rioscaí Cibearshlándála agus TF, Acmhainní a chur ar fáil, Rioscaí Maoinithe agus Nochtuithe Cosanta go foirmiúil agus go neamhfhoirmiúil trí chumarsáid rialta le lucht bainistíochta agus leis an mBord i rith na bliana.

Seirbhísí Iniúchta Inmheánacha

Chríochnaigh an CIR meastóireacht ar Éifeachtúlacht ar an aidhm iniúchta inmheánaigh seachfhoinsithe.

Measúnú ar Fheidhmíocht

Cuireadh tús le féinmheasúnú ar fheidhmíocht Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca ag deireadh 2024, i ndiaidh don Choiste athbhreithniú seachtrach neamhspleách a fháil sa bhliain roimhe. Cuireadh tuarascáil an athbhreithneora seachtraigh san áireamh agus cuireadh clár i bhfeidhm chun dul i ngleic leis na torthaí.

Sceideal Tinrimh, Táillí agus Costais

Tá sceideal freastail ar chruinnithe an Bhoird agus an Choiste don bhliain 2024 leagtha amach thíos. Áirítear sa tábla freisin na táillí agus na speansais a fuair gach comhalta:

Ainm	Tinreamh an Bhoird	Tinreamh an Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca	Táillí 2024 €	Speansais 2024 €
John Killeen	1		217	-
Aodh O Domhnaill	12		7,695	3,539
Berna Grist	12		7,695	-
Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher	11	7	7,695	5,226
Dermot Clohessy	12	7	7,695	1,835
Kate Burns	10		7,193	2,116
Pauline Cronin *	11	7	-	986
Tim McCarthy *	10		-	2,007
Tom Tynan	12	7	7,695	3,086
Sinéad Ní Fhátharta *	n/b	3	-	-
Iomlán – Táillí/Caiteachas €	n/b	n/b	45,885	18,795
Líon iomlán na gCruinnithe	12	7		

* Ní bhfuair Pauline Cronin, Tim McCarthy ná Sinéad Ní Fhátharta (Comhalta neamhspleách den CIR) táillí faoi phrionsabal Tuarastail Aon Duine Amháin (OPOS) in 2024.

Costais Chomhairliúcháin

Áirítear le costais chomhairleachta costas comhairle sheachtrach ad hoc agus ní áirítear leo feidhmeanna gnó seachfhoinsithe.

	2024 €	2023 €
Dlí	57,936	96,881
Airgeadais agus Rialachas	128,372	143,230
Acmhainní Daonna agus Treoir um Pinsin	15,297	30,434
Straitéis, athbhreithniú tionscadail agus seirbhísí comhairleacha gnó eile	233,959	9,750
Meastóirí Dámhachtana	160,844	150,561
Costais a bhain leis an Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise	20,787	24,864
Forbairt Loingseoireachta agus Comhairleoireacht Taighde ghaolmhar	239,406	96,449
Eile	142,552	290,643
	999,153	842,812

Costais Dlí agus Socraíochtaí

Ní raibh aon chostas dlí ná socrú dlíthiúil ag Foras na Mara maidir le díospóidí le tríú páirtithe. Ní áirítear leis seo caiteachas a tabhaíodh maidir le comhairle dlí ghinearálta a fuair Foras na Mara, rud a nochtar sna costais Chomhairleachta thuas.

Caiteachas Taistil agus Cothabhála

Déantar caiteachas taistil agus cothabhála a chatagóiriú mar a leanas:

	2024 €	2023 €
Intíre:		
An Bord	17,050	12,792
Fostaithe	668,485	587,703
Idirnáisiúnta		
An Bord	1,745	-
Fostaithe	428,213	453,591
	1,115,493	1,054,086

Áirítear leis an méid €18,795 (2023: €12,792) a íocadh go díreach le Comhaltaí an Bhoird chun iad a aisíoc as costais taistil intíre agus costais chothaithe a tabhaíodh le linn 2024.

Caiteachas Fáilteachais

San áireamh sa Ráiteas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais tá an caiteachas seo a leanas maidir le fáilteachas:

	2024 €	2023 €
Foireann	14,872	11,399
Cliant	27,444	20,147
	42,316	31,546

Ráiteas Comhlíontachta

Ghlac an Bord leis an gCód Cleachtais um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit (2016) (arna leasú in 2020) agus tá nósanna imeachta curtha i bhfeidhm aige chun comhlíonadh an Chóid a chinntiú.

I ndiaidh dó a thréimhse oifige mar Chathaoirleach an Bhoird a chur i gcrích, d'imigh John Killeen ar scor ar an 7 Eanáir 2024. Tá ról an Chathaoirligh folamh ó shin. Seachas tionchar an fholúntais seo, bhí Foras na Mara i gcomhlíontacht iomlán an Chóid Chleachtais um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024.

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Pauline Cronin

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

RÁITEAS MAIDIR LE RIALÚ INMHEÁNACH

1. Scóip na Freagrachta

Thar ceann Fhoras na Mara, admhaímid freagracht an Bhoird as a chinntiú go ndéantar córas éifeachtach rialaithe inmheánaigh a chothabháil agus a fheidhmiú. Cuirtear san áireamh san fhreagracht sinceanglais an Chóid Chleachtais um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit 2016 (arna leasú in 2020).

2. Cuspóir an Chórais Rialaithe Inmheánaigh

Tá an córas rialaithe inmheánaigh ceaptha chun riosca a bhainistiú go leibhéal inghlachtha seachas deireadh a chur leis. Ní féidir leis an gcóras, dá bhrí sin, ach ráthaíocht réasúnta seachas ráthaíocht iomlán a thabhairt go ndéantar sócmhainní a chosaint, idirbhearta a údarú agus a thaifead i gceart agus go ndéantar earráidí ábhartha nó neamhrialtachtaí a chosc nó a bhrath go tráthúil.

Tá an córas rialaithe inmheánaigh, a thagann le treoir arna eisiúint ag an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe, i bhfeidhm i bhForas na Mara don bhliain dar chríoch 31 Nollaig 2024 agus suas go dtí dáta faofa na ráiteas airgeadais.

3. Príomhnósanna Imeachta Rialaithe

Tá timpeallacht rialaithe láidir urrúnta bunaithe ag Bord Fhoras na Mara i bhForas na Mara trí:

- Cruinnithe Boird rialta a thionól nuair a chuimsíonn an clár oibre saincheisteanna straitéiseacha mar rialachas corparáideach, bainistíocht airgeadais agus straitéis chorparáideach
- Cur i bhfeidhm Straitéis Fhoras na Mara
- Freagrachtaí bainistíochta sainithe go soiléir, údarás agus cuntasacht, tarmligean feidhmeanna cuí agus athbhreithniú agus formheas ar bheartais uile Fhoras na Mara
- Buiséid bhliantúla, réamhaisnéis ar shreabhadh airgid agus caiteachas an chláir chaipitiúil a cheadú agus athbhreithniú foirmiúil a dhéanamh orthu ag gach cruinniú Boird
- Obair an Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca, a tháinig le chéile seacht n-uaire i 2024
- Clár iniúchtaí inmheánacha a thabhairt chun críche. Reáchtáladh cruinnithe rialta idir an Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca agus na hIniúcháirí Inmheánacha chun a gclár oibre, torthaí a n-iniúchtaí, a moltaí a phlé agus tionóladh cruinniú próbháideach gan bhaill den fheidhmeannas
- Oibriú córas bainistíochta riosca le hathbhreithniú bliantúil ar an mbeartas riosca agus athbhreithniú rialta ar an gclár riosca agus tuairisc ó na comhoifigigh riosca
- Córais láidre sláinte agus sábháilteachta, le tuarascálacha míosúla don Bhord
- Monatóireacht ar chomhlíonadh reachtaíochta lena n-áirítear Saoráil Faisnéise agus Rochtain ar Fhaisnéis Chomhshaoil
- Beartas um Nochtadh Cosanta a chur i bhfeidhm, trína spreagann an Institiúid aon duine a bhfuil amhras aige/aici de mheon macánta faoi chalaois, faoi neamhrialtacht airgeadais nó faoi iompraíocht mhíchuí eile; é seo a thuairisciú de réir na nósanna imeachta atá leagtha amach sa pholasaí. Ní dhearnadh aon nochtadh cosanta in 2024

- Breithniú ar aon mholtaí ón Iniúcháir Seachtrach
- Na córais rialaithe inmheánaigh mar atá sonraithe i gCreat Rialaithe Oibriúcháin Fhoras na Mara a leagann amach na príomhrialaithe atá i bhfeidhm laistigh den Fhoras, in éineacht le húinéir gach rialaithe. Chun cáilíocht na tuarascála a fheabhsú a thuilleadh, tá Ráiteas Dearbhaithe curtha isteach ag úinéirí rialaithe áirithe maidir le gach sraith rialuithe i leith 2024.

Ráiteas maidir le Rialú Inmheánach

Rinne an Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca athbhreithniú ar an Ráiteas ar Rialú Inmheánach ar an 24 Feabhra 2025 agus d’fhaomh an Bord Stiúrthóirí é ar an 25 Feabhra 2025.

Córais Bhainistíochta Airgeadais agus Bhuiséid

Tá córas buiséadaithe bliantúil cuimsitheach ann le hioncam bliantúil, próiseas leithdháilte buiséid, réamhaisnéis ar shreabhadh airgid agus buiséadú clár caipitil athbhreithnithe agus faofa ag an mBord ag tús gach bliana, le hathbhreithniú foirmiúil ag gach cruinniú Boird ina dhiaidh sin. Tá beartais agus nósanna imeachta i bhfeidhm maidir le cúrsaí buiséadacha agus airgeadais, le conarthaí soláthair dar luach os cionn €150,000 ag teacht chuig an mBord lena mbreithniú agus lena gceadú. Déanann an Feidhmeannas athbhreithnithe rialta ar thuarascálacha bainistíochta airgeadais agus tá Plean Soláthair Corparáideach i bhfeidhm.

Nósanna imeachta chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar éifeachtacht an Chórais Rialaithe Inmheánaigh

Cuireadh Plean Iniúchta Inmheánaigh 2024 i bhfeidhm go hiomlán agus cuireadh tús leis na hiniúchtaí seo a leanas nó cuireadh i gcrích iad le linn na bliana féilire:

- Athbhreithniú Ardleibhéil ar Rialuithe Inmheánacha do 2023 (tosaithe in 2023, críochnaithe in 2024)
- Iniúchadh ar an Obair Chumaisc
- Iniúchadh ar Bhainistiú Seachfhoinsithe agus Conarthaí
- Iniúchadh ar Luach ar Airgead
- Athbhreithniú Ardleibhéil ar Rialuithe Inmheánacha do 2024 (tosaithe in 2024, críochnaithe in 2025)

Faomhann an Coiste Iniúchta & Riosca pleananna forfheidhmithe chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar mholtaí iniúchta inmheánaigh. Déantar athbhreithniú bliantúil ar dhul chun cinn ar chur i bhfeidhm na ngníomhartha comhaontaithe agus tuairiscítear don Choiste Iniúchta & Riosca.

Léiríodh sa Phlean Iniúchta Inmheánaigh do 2024 na rioscaí a aithníodh i gClár Rioscaí Fhoras na Mara, sa litir bhainistíochta ó Oifig an Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste agus forbairtí ginearálta maidir le Rialachas Corparáideach. D’fhaomh an Coiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca an Plean Iniúchta Inmheánaigh do 2024-2026 i mí na Nollag 2023 agus d’fhaomh Bord Fhoras na Mara é in Eanáir 2024. Is plean rollach é seo a nuashonraítear go bliantúil le haghaidh measúnuithe riosca reatha, torthaí iniúchtaí agus chun tionchar aon athrú ar an timpeallacht ina bhfeidhmíonn an Foras agus forbairtí rialachais chorparáidigh ginearálta a mheas.

Cumas chun Riosca a Láimhseáil

Tá Coiste Iniúchta agus Riosca (CIR) ag Foras na Mara ar a bhfuil ceathrar comhalta Boird, duine acu ina Chathaoirleach, agus comhalta neamh-Bhoird amháin, le raon leathan taithí lena n-áirítear saineolas airgeadais agus iniúchta.

Tá feidhm iniúchta inmheánaigh bunaithe ag Foras na Mara freisin, a sheachfhoinsítear do ghnólacht tráchtála. Tá dóthain acmhainní aige agus stiúrann sé clár oibre arna chomhaontú leis an ARC agus arna fhaomhadh ag an mBord.

Déanann an ARC maoirseacht ar chur i bhfeidhm an bheartais bhainistíochta riosca, a leagann amach fonn riosca Fhoras na Mara, na próisis bhainistíochta riosca atá i bhfeidhm agus sonraíonn sé róil agus freagrachtaí na foirne maidir le riosca. Eisíodh an polasaí don fhoireann go léir chun a chinntiú go bhfuil an bhainistíocht ar an airdeall maidir le rioscaí atá ag teacht chun cinn agus ionas go mbeidh gach ball foirne ar an eolas faoina bhfreagracht maidir le riosca a mhaolú agus feidhmiú rialuithe laistigh dá réimse oibre féin.

In 2024, chuimsigh plean oibre an CIR athbhreithniú sonrach ar na rioscaí amhail Rioscaí Soláthair, rioscaí RGCS, rioscaí Calaoise, rioscaí Cíbearshlándála agus TF, agus rioscaí maoirseachta agus monatóireachta bainistíochta. Rinneadh monatóireacht rialta orthu seo go foirmiúil agus go neamhfhoirmiúil trí chumarsáid rialta idir an CIR, an fhoireann cheannaireachta Shinsearach agus an Bord i rith na bliana.

Breithníodh impleachtaí airgeadais rioscaí gnó tríd an bpróiseas measúnaithe riosca gnó foirmiúil agus in ullmhú Pleananna Iniúchta Inmheánaigh Fhoras na Mara. Tá sraith chuimsitheach Nósanna Imeachta Airgeadais curtha i bhfeidhm chun gnéithe suntasacha airgeadais de ghnó Fhoras na Mara a rialú lena n-áirítear teorainneacha údaraithe le haghaidh ceannach/caiteachais. Tá na Nósanna Imeachta seo faoi réir athbhreithniú rialta.

Creat Riosca agus Rialaithe

Tá córas bainistíochta riosca curtha i bhfeidhm ag Foras na Mara a shainaithníonn agus a thuairiscíonn príomhrioscaí agus na bearta bainistíochta atá á nglacadh chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na rioscaí sin agus, a mhéid is féidir, chun na rioscaí sin a mhaolú.

Comhlíonann Beartas Bainistíochta Riosca agus Beartas Leanúnachais Gnó Fhoras na Mara an Cód Cleachtais um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit 2016 (arna leasú in 2020). Tá Oifigigh Riosca Chomhpháirteacha ceaptha ag Foras na Mara. Tá clár rioscaí i bhfeidhm a shainaithníonn na príomhrioscaí atá roimh Fhoras na Mara agus tá siad seo aitheanta, measúnaithe agus rangaithe de réir a dtábhacht. Déanann an Feidhmeannas an clár a nuashonrú ar bhonn ráithiúil agus cuirtear faoi bhráid an CIR é. Úsáidtear toradh na measúnuithe seo chun acmhainní a phleanáil agus a leithdháileadh chun a chinntiú go ndéantar rioscaí a mhaolú agus a bhainistiú go leibhéal inghlactha.

Sonraíonn an clár rioscaí na rialuithe agus na gníomhartha is gá chun rioscaí a mhaolú agus sanntar freagracht as feidhmiú na rialuithe ar fhoireann shonrach. Deimhnímid an méid seo a leanas maidir leis an timpeallacht rialaithe:

- Tá nósanna imeachta maidir le gach príomhphróiseas gnó doiciméadaithe agus déantar athbhreithniú rialta orthu
- Sannadh freagrachtaí airgeadais ar leibhéal na bainistíochta agus tá cuntasacht chomhfhreagrach ann
- Tá córas buiséadach cuí ann le buiséad bliantúil a choinníonn an bhainistíocht shinsearach faoi athbhreithniú
- Tá córais ann atá dírithe ar shlándáil na gcóras teicneolaíochta faisnéise agus cumarsáide a chinntiú
- Tá córais i bhfeidhm chun na sócmhainní a chosaint, agus

- Cinntíonn nósanna imeachta rialaithe ar mhaoiniú deontais do ghníomhaireachtaí seachtracha rialú leordhóthanach ar fhaomhadh deontas agus monatóireacht agus athbhreithniú ar deonaithe chun an riosca nach gcuirfí maoiniú deontais i bhfeidhm ach amháin chun na críche a bhí beartaithe a mhaolú.

Monatóireacht agus athbhreithniú leanúnach

Tá nósanna imeachta foirmiúla bunaithe chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar phróisis rialaithe agus cuirtear easnaimh rialaithe in iúl dóibh siúd atá freagrach as gníomh ceartaitheach a dhéanamh agus don bhainistíocht agus don Bhord, nuair is cuí, ar bhealach tráthúil. Deimhnímid go bhfuil na córais mhonatóireachta leanúnacha seo a leanas i bhfeidhm:

- Sainaithníodh príomhrioscaí agus rialuithe gaolmhara agus cuireadh próisis i bhfeidhm chun faireachán a dhéanamh ar oibriú na bpríomhrialuithe sin agus chun aon easnaimh a aithníodh a thuairisciú
- Tá socruithe tuairiscithe bunaithe ag gach leibhéal inar sannadh freagracht as bainistíocht airgeadais, agus
- Déantar athbhreithnithe rialta ag bainistíocht shinsearach ar fheidhmíocht thréimhsiúil agus bhliantúil agus ar thuarascálacha airgeadais a léiríonn feidhmíocht i gcoinne buiséid/réamhaisnéisí.

Soláthar

Deimhnímid go bhfuil nósanna imeachta i bhfeidhm ag Foras na Mara chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíontar na rialacha agus na treoirlínte reatha soláthair. Chomhlíon an Institiúid na nósanna imeachta seo le linn 2024.

Athbhreithniú ar Éifeachtúlacht

Deimhnímid go bhfuil nósanna imeachta i bhfeidhm ag Foras na Mara chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar éifeachtacht a nósanna imeachta bainistíochta agus rialaithe riosca. Cuireadh tús le hathbhreithniú neamhspleách seachtrach ar an mBord agus ar an gCoiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca in 2023 agus tugadh chun críche é in 2024. Cuireadh tús le féinmheasúnú ar éifeachtúlacht an Bhoird agus an Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca go deireanach in 2024 agus cuireadh i gcrích é go luath in 2025. Tá monatóireacht agus athbhreithniú Fhoras na Mara ar éifeachtacht an chórais rialaithe inmheánaigh bunaithe ar obair na n-iniúcháirí inmheánacha agus seachtracha, an Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca a dhéanann maoirseacht ar a gcuid oibre, agus an bhainistíocht shinsearach laistigh d’Fhoras na Mara atá freagrach as forbairt agus cothabháil an chreata rialaithe inmheánaigh.

Athbhreithniú Bliantúil ar Éifeachtacht ar Rialú Inmheánach

Deimhnímid go ndearna an Bord athbhreithniú bliantúil ar éifeachtacht na rialuithe inmheánacha do 2024 agus gur cheadaigh an Bord é ar an 25 Feabhra 2025. Agus an t-athbhreithniú seo á dhéanamh aige, bhreithnigh an Bord na nithe seo a leanas:

- Polasaithe, córais agus nósanna imeachta bainistíochta riosca
- Na hiniúchtaí inmheánacha a rinneadh
- An creat rialaithe oibriúcháin agus na ráitis dearbhaithe gaolmhara
- Torthaí an iniúchta sheachtraigh ag an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste
- Obair an Choiste Iniúcháireachta agus Riosca
- Gnéithe eile den Struchtúr Rialachais agus den chóras rialuithe

Saincheistearna Rialaithe Inmheánaigh

Ní raibh aon chaillteanais ábhartha, calaoisí ná sáruithe rialaithe ann in 2024.
Níor sainaithníodh aon laigí sa rialú inmheánach in 2024 a éilíonn nochtadh sa Ráiteas ar Rialú Inmheánach.

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Pauline Cronin

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

RÁITEAS AR AN GCUNTAS
IONCAIM AGUS CAITEACHAIS
AGUS AR CHÚLCHISTÍ IONCAIM
COIMEÁDTA

An Bhliain dar Chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2024

	Nóta	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Ioncam			
Deontais Oireachtais	2	43,050	41,345
Deontais eile ón Stát	3	9,893	10,900
Ioncam AE agus Eile	4	23,930	7,955
Glanmhaoiniú larchurtha Le haghaidh Sochair Scoir	19	4,837	4,549
Ioncam iomlán		81,710	64,749
Caiteachas			
Luach Saothair agus Costais Phinsin	5	(18,247)	(16,947)
Costais maidir le Sochair Scoir	19	(4,769)	(4,711)
Costais Oibriúcháin an tSoithigh	6	(12,072)	(11,478)
Costais Taistil	7	(1,115)	(1,054)
Deontais agus Soláthraithe Seirbhíse Seachtracha	8	(30,702)	(12,682)
Costais Áiseanna	9	(2,819)	(3,324)
TF, Teileafón & Cumarsáid		(3,327)	(3,127)
Costais Saotharlainne & Réimse		(999)	(1,220)
Costais Eile Riaracháin agus Trealamh ar cíós	10	(3,233)	(3,216)
Dímheas	15	(6,114)	(6,048)
Caiteachas iomlán		(83,397)	(63,807)
Aistriú ón gCuntas Caipitil	14	1,718	1,410
Fáltais ó Dhiúscairt Sócmhainní atá dlite don Státhiste	18	-	(2,345)
Barrachas don bhliain		31	7
larmhéid tugtha ar aghaidh ar an 1 Eanáir		2,045	2,038
larmhéid tugtha ar aghaidh ar an 31 Nollaig		2,076	2,045

Tá an Ráiteas ar Shreabhadh Airgid agus Nótaí 1 – 24 a ghabhann leis mar chuid de na ráitis airgeadais seo.

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Pauline Cronin

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

RÁITEAS AR IONCAM CUIMSITHEACH

An Bhliain dar Chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2024

	Nóta	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Barrachas don bhliain		31	7
Gnóthachain Taithí	19	929	339
Athruithe ar fhoshuíomhanna achtúireacha	19	(4,416)	2,525
Coigeartú ar mhaoiniú scéime sochair shainithe		3,487	(2,864)
Ioncam Cuimsitheach Iomlán don bhliain		31	7

Tá an Ráiteas ar Shreabhadh Airgid agus Nótaí 1 – 24 a ghabhann leis mar chuid de na ráitis airgeadais seo.

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Pauline Cronin

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

RÁITEAS AR STAID AIRGEADAIS

amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024

	Nóta	2024 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2023 €'000
Maoín, Gléasra agus Trealamh	15		39,934		41,652
Sócmhainní Reatha					
Infháiltais	17	1,237		1,476	
Airgead tirim agus coibhéisí airgid		20,710		18,982	
		21,947		20,458	
Dlíteanais Reatha (méideanna atá dlite laistigh de bhliain amháin)					
Suimeanna Iníoctha	18	(19,871)		(18,413)	
Glansócmhainní Reatha			2,076		2,045
Sócmhainní Iomlána Lúide Dlíteanais Reatha roimh Oibleagáidí Scoir			42,010		43,697
Oibleagáidí Sochair Scoir larchurtha					
Oibleagáidí Sochair Scoir larchurtha	19	(70,041)		(68,691)	
Maoiniú Sochar Scoir larchurtha	19	70,041		68,691	
Iomlán na nGlansócmhainní			42,010		43,697
Ag ionadú:					
Cuntas Caipitil	14	33,081		34,655	
Cúlchiste Athluachála	16	6,853		6,997	
Cúlchistí Ioncaim Coimeádta		2,076		2,045	
			42,010		43,697

Tá an Ráiteas ar Shreabhadh Airgid agus Nótaí 1 – 24 a ghabhann leis mar chuid de na ráitis airgeadais seo.

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Charlotte O'Kelly de Gallagher

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

Thar ceann an Bhoird

Pauline Cronin

Comhalta an Bhoird

Dáta: 24 Meitheamh 2025

RÁITEAS AR SHREAFÁÍ AIRGID

An Bhliain dar Chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2024

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Glansreafaí Airgid ó Ghníomhaíochtaí Oibriúcháin		
Barrachas don bhliain airgeadais	31	7
Coigeartuithe maidir le:		
Dímheas ar Mhaoin, Gléasra agus Trealamh inláimhsithe	6,114	6,048
Aistriú ón gCuntas Caipitil	(1,718)	(1,410)
Méadú ar Shuimeanna Iníochtha	1,458	10,550
Laghdú ar Infháltais	239	106
Barrachas ó dhiúscairt sócmhainní seasta	(3)	(2,284)
Glansreafaí airgid ó ghníomhaíochtaí oibriúcháin	6,121	13,017
Sreafaí airgid ó ghníomhartha infheistíochta		
Íocaíochtaí ar Mhaoin, Gléasra agus Trealamh inláimhsithe	(4,400)	(4,699)
Fáltais ó Dhiúscairt Sócmhainní (glan ó speansais)	7	2,345
Glansreafaí airgid ó ghníomhaíochtaí infheistíochta	(4,393)	(2,354)
Méadú glan ar airgead tirim agus ar choibhéisí airgid		
Airgead tirim agus coibhéisí airgid ag tús na bliana airgeadais	18,982	8,319
Airgead tirim agus coibhéisí airgid ag deireadh na bliana airgeadais	20,710	18,982

NÓTAÍ A GHABHANN LEIS NA RÁITIS AIRGEADAIS

An Bhliain dar Chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2024

1. Beartais Chuntasaíochta

Tá bunús na cuntasaíochta agus na mbeartas suntasach cuntasaíochta ar ghlac Foras na Mara leo leagtha amach thíos. Cuireadh iad go léir i bhfeidhm go comhsheasmhach i rith na bliana. Tá anailís déanta ag an Institiúid ar a caiteachas bunaithe ar chineál an chostais seachas ar bhonn cláir.

a) Faisnéis Ghinearálta

Bunaíodh Foras na Mara ar an 30 Deireadh Fómhair 1992 faoi fhorálacha Acht Fhoras na Mara, 1991. Tá ceanncheathrú na hInstitiúide suite i Rinn Mhíl, Órán Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe, H91 R673.

Is iad príomhchuspóirí Fhoras na Mara mar atá leagtha amach in Alt 4 den Acht

"taighde agus forbairt mara a ghabháil de láimh, a chomhordú, a spreagadh agus cuidiú leis sin agus cibé seirbhísí i ndáil le taighde agus forbairt mara a chur ar fáil ar seirbhísí iad, i dtuairim an Fhorais, a spreagfaidh forbairt eacnamaíoch agus a chruthóidh fostaíocht agus a chosnóidh an timpeallacht mhara"

Is Aonán Tairbhe Poiblí (ATP) é Foras na Mara.

b) An Ráiteas Comhlíontachta

Tá ráitis airgeadais Fhoras na Mara don bhliain dar chríoch 31 Nollaig 2024 ullmhaithe de réir FRS 102, an caighdeán tuairiscithe airgeadais is infheidhme sa RA agus in Éirinn arna eisiúint ag an gComhairle um Thuairisciú Airgeadais (FRC).

c) An tAirgeadra

Tá na ráitis airgeadais curtha i láthair in Euro (€) arb é airgeadra feidhmiúil na hInstitiúide é freisin. I gcásanna ina bhfuil méideanna slánaithe go dtí an míle Euro is gaire, léirítear é seo leis an tsiombail €'000.

d) Bunús an Ullmhúcháin

Ullmhaítear na ráitis airgeadais faoi mhodh cuntasaíochta na bhfabhruithe agus faoin gcoinbhinsiún costais stairiúil, ach amháin go luaitear talamh agus maoin ar luacháil lúide dímheas carntha, san fhoirm atá ceadaithe ag an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara le comhthoiliú an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe, de réir Alt 12(1) d'Acht Fhoras na Mara, 1991.

Ullmhaítear na ráitis airgeadais trí úsáid a bhaint as bonn cuntasaíochta an ghnóthais leantaigh. Níl aon imeachtaí idir an dáta tuairiscithe agus dáta faofa na ráiteas airgeadais seo lena n-eisiúint a éilíonn coigeartú ar na ráitis airgeadais. Rinne an Bord breithniú ar an timpeallacht dhomhanda ghinearálta, ar bhrúnna boilscitheacha agus ar thionchair ar phraghas an fhuinnimh agus ar mhíreanna eile, ar chistiú na hInstitiúide amach anseo agus ar a pleanáil straitéiseach agus oibríochtúil agus tháinig sé ar an gconclúid nach bhfuil aon éiginnteacht ábhartha ann a d'fhéadfadh amhras suntasach a chaitheamh ar chumas na hInstitiúide leanúint de bhonn cuntasaíochta an ghnóthais leantaigh a ghlacadh ar feadh tréimhse dhá mhí dhéag ar a laghad ón dáta a údaraítear na ráitis airgeadais lena n-eisiúint.

Cuireadh na beartais chuntasaíochta seo a leanas i bhfeidhm go comhsheasmhach chun déileáil le míreanna a mheastar a bheith ábhartha maidir le ráitis airgeadais Fhoras na Mara.

e) Ioncam

Aithnítear Ioncam ón Oireachtas ón Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara de réir mar a fhaightear é. Faightear é sa bhliain lena mbaineann sé.

Aithnítear ioncam maoinithe ón gCiste Eorpach Muirí, lascaigh agus Dobharshaothraithe (EMFAF) sa bhliain ina dtabhaítear caiteachas gaolmhar.

Aithnítear Deontais Stáit eile ar bhonn fabhraithe.

Aithnítear ioncam a fhaightear i ndáil le tionscadail taighde conartha AE agus eile ar bhonn fabhraithe trína n-aithnítear an t-ioncam sa tréimhse chuntasaíochta ina ngearrtar an caiteachas gaolmhar. Déileáiltear le hioncam a fhaightear roimh ré mar ioncam iarchurtha agus áirítear é laistigh de Shuimeanna Iníochta sa Ráiteas ar an Staid Airgeadais. Déileáiltear le caiteachas a thabhaítear nuair nach bhfuil an t-ioncam gaolmhar faighte mar ioncam fabhraithe agus léirítear é mar Infhaighte sa Ráiteas ar an Staid Airgeadais.

f) Áitreabh, Gléasra agus Trealamh agus Dímheas

Luaitear Gléasra agus Trealamh ag costas lúide dímheas carntha.

Luaitear talamh agus maoin ar luacháil lúide dímheas carntha. Déanann luachálaí neamhspleách atá cáilithe go gairmiúil talamh agus maoin a athluacháil gach cúig bliana.

Soláthraítear dímheas de réir méid cothrom ag rátaí a mheastar a laghdóidh na sócmhainní go dtí a luach inréadaithe faoi dheireadh a saolré ionchasaí. Is iad seo a leanas na rátaí in úsáid:

Maoin (gan talamh san áireamh)	2%
Feabhsúcháin Léasachta	4%
Daingneáin agus Feistis/Trealamh	25%
Ríomhairí	33%
Soitheach Taighde	4%
Mótarfheithiclí	20%

Déantar luachanna (tugtha) anonn na Maoine, an Ghléasra agus an Trealaime a athbhreithniú le haghaidh bearnaithe nuair a thugann imeachtaí nó athruithe ar chúinsí le fios go bhféadfadh sé nach mbeadh an luach tugtha anonn in-aisghabhála. Má tá fianaise oibiachtúil ann go bhfuil bearnú ar luach na sócmhainne, aithnítear caillteanas bearnaithe sa Ráiteas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais agus Cúlchistí Ioncaim Coiméadta sa bhliain

Suas go dtí an 31 Nollaig 2020, rinneadh sócmhainní nó grúpaí sócmhainní a chosain €1,000 ar a laghad a chaipitliú ar chlár na sócmhainní seasta. Ón 1 Eanáir 2021, mhéadaigh Foras na Mara an tairseach chun sócmhainní nó grúpaí sócmhainní a chaipitliú ó €1,000 go €10,000. Déanann sé seo breithniú ar nádúr agus ábharthacht shócmhainní na hInstitiúide agus tá sé ag teacht freisin le himlitir an Rialtais 21/2020.

g) Sócmhainní Doláimhsithe

Cuimsíonn sócmhainní doláimhsithe cearta iascaireachta atá i seilbh Fhoras na Mara chuig Loch Fíoch, Loch na Foinnéise agus Inbhir i mBaile Uí Fhiacháin, Contae Mhaigh Eo. Iompraítear na sócmhainní doláimhsithe seo sa Ráiteas ar an Staid Airgeadais ag a gcostas éinialas toisc nach féidir a luach cóir a chinneadh go hiontaofa trí thagairt do mhargadh gníomhach.

h) Sócmhainní ar Léas

Aithnítear caiteachas cíosa faoi léasanna oibriúcháin sa Ráiteas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais agus Cúlchistí Ioncaim Coinnithe thar shaolré an léasa. Aithnítear caiteachas ar bhonn dronlíneach thar thréimhse an léasa, ach amháin sa chás go bhfuil méaduithe cíosa nasctha leis an ráta boilscithe a bhfuiltear ag súil leis, agus sa chás sin aithnítear na harduithe seo nuair a thabhaítear iad. Aithnítear aon dreasachtaí léasa a fhaightear thar shaolré an léasa.

i) Cuntas Caipitil

Aithníonn an Institiúid maoiniú a fuarthas chun críocha caipitiúla faoin tSamhail Fabhruithe atá sonraithe in FRS 102. Aithnítear an méid a fhaightear san ioncam ar bhonn córasach thar shaolré úsáideach ionchasach na sócmhainne.

j) Airgeadraí lasachta

Aistrítear idirbhearta atá ainmnithe in airgeadra eachtrach go dtí an t-airgeadra feidhme ag baint úsáide as na spotrátaí malairte ar dháta na n-idirbheart. Ag deireadh gach bliana airgeadais, aistrítear míreanna airgeadaíochta in airgeadra eachtrach go Euro ag baint úsáide as an ráta deiridh. Aistrítear míreanna neamhairgeadaíochta arna dtomhas ar chostas stairiúil ag úsáid an ráta malairte ar dháta an idirbhirt agus tomhaistear míreanna neamhairgeadaíochta arna dtomhas ar luach cóir ag úsáid an ráta malairte nuair a cinneadh luach cóir.

k) Clár um Thaighde Mara

Déanann Foras na Mara gealltanais maidir le conarthaí a bhronntar ar thionscadail an Chláir Taighde Mara. Gearrtar caiteachas sna ráitis airgeadais de réir mar a thabhaítear é/mar atá sé dlíte. Déantar íocaíocht tosaigh ar shíniú an chonartha tionscadail, féadfar íocaíocht eatramhach a dhéanamh faoi réir feidhmíocht shásúil faoin gconradh agus déantar íocaíochtaí breise nuair a fhaightear agus nuair a fhóraítear éilimh maidir le hobair a cuireadh i gcrích. Maoinítear costais a thabhaíonn an Foras maidir le riaradh thionscadail an Chláir Taighde Mara trí vóta caipitil Fhoras na Mara agus gearrtar iad ar na ráitis airgeadais de réir mar a thabhaítear iad.

l) Sochair Foirne - Sochair ghearrthéarmacha

Aithnítear sochair ghearrthéarmacha ar nós pá saoire mar speansas sa bhliain ina ndéanann an fostaí seirbhís, agus áirítear sochair a fhabhraítear ag deireadh na bliana sna figiúirí suimeanna iníochta sa Ráiteas ar an Staid Airgeadais.

m) Sochair Scoir

Feidhmíonn Foras na Mara a scéim pinsin sochair shainithe féin, arna maoiniú go bliantúil ar bhonn íoc-mar-a-úsáidtear ó airgead a sholáthraíonn an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara. Íoctar ranníocaíochtaí a asbhaintear ó thuarastail na mball leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara.

Glacann Foras na Mara páirt freisin i Scéim Pinsin na Seirbhíse Poiblí Aonair (“Scéim Aonair”), ar scéim sochair shainithe í do sheirbhísigh phoiblí inphinsin arna gceapadh an 1 Eanáir 2013 nó dá éis. Íoctar ranníocaíochtaí chomhaltaí na Scéime Aonair leis an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe.

Léiríonn costais phinsin na sochair phinsin atá tuillte ag fostaithe, agus léirítear iad glan ó ranníocaíochtaí pinsin na foirne a chuirtear ar ais chuig an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara. Aithnítear méid a chomhfhreagraíonn don mhuirear pinsin mar ioncam sa mhéid is go bhfuil sé inghnóthaithe, agus fritháirithe ag deontais a fhaightear sa bhliain chun íocaíochtaí pinsin a urscaoileadh.

Léirítear gnóthachan nó caillteanais achtúireacha a eascraíonn as dlíteanais scéime sa Ráiteas ar Ioncam Cuimsitheach, agus aithnítear coigeartú comhfhreagrach sa mhéid atá in-aisghabhála ón Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara.

Léiríonn na ráitis airgeadais, ag luach cóir, na sócmhainní agus na dlíteanais a eascraíonn as oibleagáidí pinsin Fhoras na Mara agus aon mhaoiniú gaolmhar, agus aithníonn siad na costais a bhaineann le sochair phinsin a sholáthar sna tréimhsí cuntasaíochta ina dtuilleann fostaithe iad. Déantar dlíteanais na scéime sochair scoir a thomhas ar bhonn achtúireach ag baint úsáide as modh an aonaid chreidmheasa réamh-mheasta. Déantar iad a mheaitseáil le sócmhainn Mhaoinithe Sochar Scoir larchurtha de réir mar a ráthaíonn an Stát na dlíteanais phinsin.

n) Infháltais

Aithnítear nithe infhaighte ag luach cóir, lúide soláthar d’fhiacha amhrasacha. Is foráil shonrach í an fhoráil d’fhiacha amhrasacha, agus bunaítear é nuair a bhíonn fianaise oibiachtúil ann nach mbeidh Foras na Mara in ann na suimeanna go léir atá dlite dó a bhailiú. Aithnítear gach gluaiseacht sa soláthar d’fhiacha amhrasacha sa Ráiteas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais agus Cúlchistí Ioncaim Coimeádta.

o) Teagmhais

Ní aithnítear dliteanais theagmhasacha, a eascraíonn mar thoradh ar imeachtaí san am a chuaigh thart, (i) nuair nach dócha go mbeidh eis-sreabhadh acmhainní ann nó nach féidir an méid a thomhas go hiontaofa ag an dáta tuairiscithe nó (ii) nuair a bheidh an saol ann. a dheimhniú trí tharlú nó neamhtharlú imeachtaí éiginnte amach anseo nach bhfuil go hiomlán faoi smacht na hInstitiúide. Nochtar dliteanais theagmhasacha sna ráitis airgeadais ach amháin má tá an dóchúlacht go mbeidh eis-sreabhadh acmhainní neamhchosúil.

Ní aithnítear sócmhainní teagmhasacha. Nochtar sócmhainní teagmhasacha sna ráitis airgeadais nuair is dócha go mbeidh insreabhadh tairbhí eacnamaíocha ann.

p) Páirtithe Gaolmhara

Nochtar idirbhearta páirtithe gaolmhara sna nótaí leis na ráitis airgeadais de réir FRS 102.

q) Meastacháin agus Breithiúnais Cuntasaíochta Thábhachtacha

Chun na ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú, ceanglaítear ar an mbainistíocht breithiúnais, meastacháin agus foshuíomhanna cuntasaíochta a dhéanamh a dhéanann difear do na méideanna a thuairiscítear le haghaidh sócmhainní agus dliteanas amhail ar an dáta tuairiscithe agus do na méideanna a thuairiscítear le haghaidh ioncam agus speansas le linn na bliana. Mar sin féin, ciallaíonn nádúr an mheastacháin go bhféadfadh na torthaí iarbhir a bheith difriúil ó na meastacháin sin. Bhí an tionchar is suntasaí ag na breithiúnais seo a leanas ar mhéideanna aitheanta sna ráitis airgeadais.

- Laige ar Mhaoín, ar Ghléasra agus ar Threalamh**
Déantar athbhreithniú ar shócmhainní atá faoi réir amúchta le haghaidh bearnaithe nuair a thugann imeachtaí nó athruithe ar chúinsí le fios go bhféadfadh sé nach mbeadh an tsuim ghlanluacha in-aisghabhála. Aithnítear caillteanas lagaithle le haghaidh na suime ar mó suim ghlanluacha na sócmhainne ná a méid in-aisghabhála. Is é an méid in-aisghabhála cibé acu is airde de luach cóir sócmhainne lúide costas díola agus luach úsáide. Chun críche measúnú a dhéanamh ar laige, déantar sócmhainní a ghrúpáil ag na leibhéil is ísle a bhfuil sreafaí airgid inaitheanta ar leithligh (aonaid ghiniúna airgid). Déantar athbhreithniú ar shócmhainní neamhairgeadais a d’fhulaing laige le haghaidh aisiompú féideartha an bhearnaithe ag gach dáta tuairiscithe.
- Dímheas agus Luachanna Iarmharacha**
Tá athbhreithniú déanta ag an mBord ar shaolré sócmhainní agus ar luachanna iarmharacha gaolmhara gach aicme sócmhainní seasta agus go háirithe, ar shaolré eacnamaíoch úsáideach agus ar luachanna iarmharacha daingneán agus feisteas agus tháinig sé ar an gconclúid go bhfuil saolré sócmhainní agus luachanna iarmharacha iomchuí.
- Oibleagáid Sochair Scoir**
Déantar na foshuíomhanna cuntasaíochta is bun leis na luachálacha achtúireacha dá gcinntear na méideanna a aithnítear sna ráitis airgeadais (lena n-áirítear rátaí lascaine, rátaí méadaithe ar leibhéil chúitimh amach anseo, rátaí mortlaíochta agus rátaí treochta costais cúraim sláinte) a thabhairt cothrom le dáta go bliantúil bunaithe ar dhálaí eacnamaíocha reatha agus ar aon athrú ábhartha ar théarmaí agus coinníollacha na bpleananna pinsin agus iarscoir.

Is féidir tionchar a bheith ag na toimhdí seo ar:

- an ráta lascaine, athruithe ar an ráta toraidh ar bhannaí corparáideacha ardcháilíochta
- leibhéil chúitimh sa todhchaí, coinníollacha an mhargaidh saothair amach anseo
- rátaí treochta costais cúram sláinte agus ráta boilscithe costais leighis.

2. Deontais Oireachtais ón Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

	2024 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2023 €'000
Cuspóirí Reatha				
Foras na Mara - Vóta 30, Fotheideal D.4/D.3	28,390		27,447	
Lúide ranníocaíochtaí aoisliúntais inaisíochta	(740)		(702)	
	27,650		26,745	
Cuspóirí Caipitil				
An Clár Taighde Mara Vóta 30, Fotheideal D.4 (Nóta 12)	15,400		14,600	
		15,400		14,600
	43,050		41,345	

Trí chomhaontú leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, aisíoctar ranníocaíochtaí pinsin fostaithe go díreach leis an Roinn agus taispeántar iad mar laghdú ar leibhéil deontais. Seoltar ranníocaíochtaí pinsin scéime aonair chuig an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe.

3. Deontais eile ón Stát

	2024 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2023 €'000
<i>Infomar (Suirbhé Náisiúnta ar Ghrinneall na Farraige) – An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide Vóta 29, Fotheideal C.5</i>				
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	2,500		2,504	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	(7)		(4)	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam	2,493		2,500	

<i>An Treoir Réime Uisce maoinithe ag an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta faoi Bhuiséad Cáilíochta Uisce Vóta 34, Fotheideal B.3</i>				
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	1,398		1,163	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	(31)		(19)	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam	1,367		1,144	

<i>An Treoir Réime um Straitéis Mhuirí agus Ospar arna maoiniú ag an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta faoi Vóta Buiséid Comhshaoil Mhuirí 34, Fo-cheannteideal B.8</i>				
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	580		645	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	(30)		23	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam	550		668	

<i>Pleanáil Spásúil Mhuirí arna maoiniú ag an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta faoin mBuiséad um Pleanáil Spásúil Mhuirí Vóta 34, Fo-cheannteideal D.14</i>				
--	--	--	--	--

	2024 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2023 €'000
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	26		291	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	(29)		23	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam		(3)		314
Buiséad an Chláir Pleanála Mara maoinithe ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide Vóta 29, Fo-cheannteideal C.10				
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	284		-	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	-		-	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam		284		-
Tionscadail eile a bhaineann le cúrsaí muirí arna maoiniú ag an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta faoin mBuiséad Comhshaoil Mara Vóta 34, Fo-cheannteideal B8				
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	122		138	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	-		-	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam		122		138
TionscadalÚsáide Díolmhaithe MARA Údarás Rialála LimistéirMhuirí Vóta 34, Fo-cheannteideal D.15.2				
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	13		116	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	46		(46)	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam		59		70
Clár Fuinneamh Tonnta maoinithe ag Vóta 29 Fotheideal B.5 de chuid SEAI				
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	1,247		1,331	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	(13)		135	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam		1,234		1,466
Tionscadail EMFF/EMFAF maoinithe ag an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Vóta 30, Fotheideal D.3				
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	2,928		4,012	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	(80)		78	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam		2,848		4,090
Clár Ár nAigéan Roinnte arna mhaoiniú ag Comhoibríochtaí Idirnáisiúnta Vóta 27, Fo-cheannteideal A.3				
Airgead Tirim Faighte agus taifeadta mar ioncam	850		500	
Suimeanna (iarchurtha)/fabhraithe mar ioncam	89		10	
Méid taifeadta mar ioncam		939		510
IOMLÁN		9,893		10,900

4. Ioncam AE agus Eile

	2024 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2023 €'000
Taighde ar Chonradh AE		18,274		1,573
Ioncam eile				
Cairtfhostú Soithí Taighde	2,133		2,250	
Barrachas ar Dhíolachán Sócmhainní (glan ó chostais diúscartha)	3		2,284	
Ioncam Iolartha agus Ioncam Conartha Eile	3,520		1,848	
		5,656		6,382
IOMLÁN		23,930		7,955

5. Luach Saothair agus Costais Phinsin

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Sochair Fostaithe Chomhiomlána		
Sochair ghearrthéarmacha foirne	16,074	14,884
Ranníocaíocht Phinsin *	436	509
Íocaíochtaí Foirceanta	28	7
Táillí Boird	46	47
Gluaiseacht i bhFabhrú Pá Saoire	27	(21)
Ranníocaíocht Fostóirí le Leas Sóisialach agus le cánacha eile	1,636	1,521
	18,247	16,947

ChuígÁirítear le costais tuarastail iomlána fabhrú de €0.47m (2023: €0.44m) maidir le teidlíochtaí saoire bliantúla carntha foirne. Rinneadh asbhaintí €0.467m (2023 €0.469m) a bhaineann le pinsin ó thuarastail agus cuireadh ar aghaidh chuig an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara iad. Rinneadh asbhaintí €0.274m a bhaineann le pinsean aonair (2023: €0.233m) ó thuarastail agus cuireadh ar aghaidh chuig an an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe iad.

*Tá an ranníocaíocht pinsin a nochtar go leithleach thuas chun an costas iarchurtha don Státchiste de theidlíochtaí pinsin amach anseo d’fhostaithe ar thaighde conartha agus poist eile a mhaoinítear go seachtrach a chlúdach. Aisíocadh an méid seo leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus leis an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe.

	2024	2023
Sochair Ghearrthéarmacha foirne	€'000	€'000
Bunphá	15,486	14,306
Ragobair	-	-
Liúntais	588	578
	16,074	14,884

	2024	2023
Sochair Foirceanta	€'000	€'000
Íocaíochtaí iomarcaíochta Reachtúla	28	7
	28	7

Rinneadh íocaíochtaí reachtúla iomarcaíochta le cú igear ball foirne amháin (2023: duine amháin) ar scor dá gconarthaí téarma seasta nó fostaíochta eile.

Is é seo a leanas meánlíon na bhfostaithe de réir suímh ag deireadh na bliana:

Fostaithe	2024 Uimh.	2023 Uimh.
Rinn Mhíl Gaillimh	217	212
Baile Uí Fhiacháin	16	16
Baile Átha Cliath	7	5
Calafoirt	8	10
Bunaithe san AE	1	2
	249	245

Na coibhéisí lánaimseartha ag deireadh gach bliana	242.63	237.59
--	--------	--------

	2024	2023
Tuarastal agus Costais an Phríomhoifigigh Feidhmiúcháin (POF)	€'000	€'000
Bunphá-POF	158	83
Bunphá-POF Eadramhach	-	74
	158	157

Ba é €11,702 (2023: €8,028) na speansais iomlána a aisíocadh leis an POF i dtaobh caiteachas a bhain le gnó. Áirítear leis seo speansais taistil thar lear de €1,473 (2023: €Nil).

	2024	2023
Príomhphearsanra Bainistíochta	€'000	€'000
Tuarastal	927	861
	927	861

I measc na bpríomhphearsanra Bainistíochta i bhForas na Mara tá comhaltaí an Bhoird agus baill Fhoireann Cheannaireachta Shinsearach Fhoras na Mara, lena n-áirítear an Príomhoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin. Tá luach iomlán na sochar fostaithe don phríomhphearsanra bainistíochta leagtha amach thuas. Ní dhearnadh aon íocaíochtaí maidir le híocaíochtaí foirceanta, sochar comhchineáil nó árachas sláinte. Ní fholáionn sé seo luach na sochar scoir a tuilleadh sa tréimhse. Is baill de Scéim Aoisliúntais Foirne Fhoras na Mara 1998 nó Scéim Pinsin na Seirbhíse Poiblí Aonair iad an Fhoireann Cheannaireachta Shinsearach lena n-áirítear an POF agus ní théann a dteidlíochtaí chuige sin thar théarmaí na scéime pinsin eiseamláireach seirbhíse poiblí. Ba é €52,005 (2023: €43,546) na speansais iomlána a aisíocadh leis an bhFoireann Cheannaireachta Shinsearach maidir le caiteachas a bhain le gnó.

Miondealú Sochair Ghearrthéarmacha Fostaithe

Déantar sochair ghearrthéarmacha fostaithe (pá agus tuarastail) de bhreis ar €60,000 a chatagóiriú sna bandaí seo a leanas:

	2024 Uimhir	2023 Uimhir
€60,000 - €69,999	39	29
€70,000 - €79,999	33	39
€80,000 - €89,999	31	23
€90,000 - €99,999	18	15
€100,000 - €109,999	6	4
€110,000 - €119,999	5	2
€120,000 - €129,999	-	1
€130,000 - €139,999	1	2
€140,000 - €149,999	-	-
€150,000 - €159,999	1	-

Nóta: Chun críocha an nochta seo, áirítear le sochair fhostaithe gearrthéarmacha maidir le seirbhísí a soláthraíodh le linn na tréimhse tuairiscithe tuarastal, liúntais ragoibre agus íocaíochtaí eile a dhéantar thar ceann an fhostaí, ach ní áirítear ÁSPC an fhostóra agus pá saoire fabhraithe.

6. Costais Oibriúcháin na Soitheach

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Pearsanra agus Costais Ghaolmhara	6,383	5,901
Breosla	2,186	2,208
Árachas	222	295
Biatachas	287	292
Táille Bainistíochta	306	294
Táillí Calafoirt agus Sábháilteachta	173	103
Léasanna agus Stóráil Cíosa	126	126
Costais Innealtóireachta agus Chothabhála	1,357	1,378
Costais Oibriúcháin agus Riaracháin	1,032	881
	12,072	11,478

Eisiatar ó chostais oibriúcháin an tsoithigh costas trealaimh agus athfheistithe soithigh a chaipitlítear, in aghaidh nóta 15, toisc go gcomhlíonann siad na critéir maidir le haitheantas mar réadmhaoin, gléasra agus trealamh. Is le Foras na Mara na soithí agus cuirtear oibríochtaí na soithí ar fochonradh chuig cuideachta bainistíochta soithí tríú páirtí.

7. Costais Taistil

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Taisteal agus Cothabháil		
Intíre	662	600
Taisteal coigríche	453	454
	1,115	1,054

Baineann cuid den speansas seo le tionscadail mhaoinithe, áit a ndéanfar an costas a thabhaítear a aisíoc le Foras na Mara.

8. Deontais agus Soláthraithe Seirbhíse Seachtracha

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Deontais Chlár Taighde Mara agus costais tacaíochta (Nóta 12)	5,286	4,430
Oiliúint agus Oideachas do Mharaithe	136	125
Conraitheoirí, Soláthraithe Seirbhíse Seachtracha, Táillí Gairmiúla agus Maoiniú Taighde Eile*	24,828	7,538
Anailís Shamplach	452	589
	30,702	12,682

*Áirítear leis seo íocaíochtaí le comhpháirtithe arb é Foras na Mara an príomhpháirtí i dtionscadail atá maoinithe ag an AE, íocaíochtaí a bhaineann le tionscadail arna maoiniú ag an CEMI/EMFAF agus íocaíochtaí le soláthraithe conartha eile le haghaidh samplaí, suirbhéanna eolaíocha, tacaíocht oibríochtaí, conraitheoirí suirbhéanna seachtracha agus nithe eile a theastaíonn chun go bhféadfaidh Foras na Mara a shainordú reachtúil a chomhlíonadh. Tá méadú sa tréimhse seo arna spreagadh ag íocaíochtaí chuig comhpháirtithe tionscadail AE sa chás go bhfuil Foras na Mara ina phríomh-chomhpháirtí agus nach bhfuil an maoiniú gaolmhar ón deontóir san áireamh san ioncam.

9. Costais Áiseanna

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Cothabháil	1,664	1,649
Solas & Teas	501	779
Costais Athsholáthair	444	666
Eile	210	230
	2,819	3,324

10. Costais Eile Riaracháin agus Trealamh ar cíós

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Cíos, Rátaí agus Costais Maoine Eile	249	263
Síntiúis Irise, Ballraíochtaí agus Costais Leabharlainne	334	220
agus	205	219
Stáiseanóireacht agus Earraí Inchaite	125	138
Foilseacháin, Ábhair do Chur Chun Cinn agus Dearadh	376	426
Árachas	210	213
Táille iniúchóireachta	29	29
Fruiliú ar Threalamh agus Soithí	701	652
Trealamh Iolartha agus deisiúcháin	317	625
Costais Riaracháin Eile	687	700
Athrangú ar chostais a bhaineann le Díol an RV Celtic Voyager		(269)
	3,233	3,216

Tá feidhm ag forálacha Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Íocaíocht Dhéanach in Idirbhearta Tráchtála), 2012 (I.R. Uimh. 580 de 2012) maidir le Foras na Mara. Íocadh €130 in ús agus i gcúiteamh le linn 2024 (2023 €175).

11. Cánachas

Tá Foras na Mara díolmhaithe go sonrach ó chánachas faoi fhorálacha Alt 32 agus Sceideal 2 den Acht Airgeadais 1994. Dá réir sin, níl aon mhuirear cánach san áireamh sna ráitis airgeadais.

12. Íocaíochtaí Clár Taighde Mara – Caipiteal arna Mhaoiniú ag an Státchiste

Is nóta meabhráin é seo, a bhfuil sé mar fheidhm aige cur i bhfeidhm an mhaoinithe caipitil de €15.4m a fuarthas i 2024 (2023: €14.6m) a thaispeáint, mar a caitheadh é ar thacú leis na Straitéisí Náisiúnta um Thaighde agus Nuálaíocht Mara. Déantar an caiteachas a chatagóiriú ar fud na ráiteas airgeadais mar a shonraítear thíos.

Foilsíodh an *Straitéis Náisiúnta um Thaighde agus Nuálaíocht Mara 2017-2021* i mí an Mheithimh 2017 agus shainaithníodh 15 théama taighde faoi na trí sprioc atá ag *Feidhm a Bhaint as Saibhreas Ár nAigéin*. Leagadh amach sa straitéis na tosaíochtaí taighde in 2023 agus in 2024 chomh maith agus téann sí le dréacht don straitéis náisiúnta nua um Thaighde, Eolas agus Nuálaíocht Mara don tréimhse 2025-2030, *Eolas faoin Aigéan 2030*, arna scaipeadh i Mí na Samhna 2024 agus a tabharfar chun críche in 2025.

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Ioncam Oireachtais (Nóta 2)	15,400	14,600
Ioncam Eile nó Ioncam Cómhaoinithe	31	163
Ioncam Iomlán	15,431	14,763
<i>Caiteachas ar thionscadail an Chláir Taighde Mara</i>		
Dámhachtain um Rochtain ar Long-Ama	4,728	5,445
Deontais do Chlár Taighde Mara (Nóta 8)	5,286	4,430
Tacaíocht Beartais Taighde Mara, Oideachas agus For-rochtain agus Íocaíochtaí Riaracháin	1,263	1,094
Trealamh Caipitil, TF, Soithí, Athfheistithe Soithí agus Aigéaneolaíochta	4,152	3,793
Caiteachas Iomlán	15,429	14,762

Dámhachtain Rochtana ar Long-Ama: Cuirtear rochtain ar shoithí taighde na hInstitiúide ar fáil do Thaighdeoirí, lena n-áirítear tríú páirtithe ar nós Institiúidí Ardoideachais chun críocha taighde agus oideachais, tar éis glao iomaíoch bliantúil “Dámhachtain Long-Ama”. Is é an €4,728,400 luach na dámhachtana “comhchineáil” seo do na hiarratasóirí rathúla, nach ngearrtar táille úsáide airgeadaíochta orthu. Is é an €4,728,400 costas oibriúcháin measta na soithí, agus iad in úsáid ag iarratasóirí dá leithéid. Tá an tsuim seo mar chuid de chostais iomlána oibríochtaí an tsoithigh a áirítear sa chuntas ioncaim agus caiteachais.

Deontais an Chláir Taighde Mara: Áirítear leis seo íocaíochtaí atá nasctha leis an Straitéis Náisiúnta um Thaighde agus Nuálaíocht Mara le haghaidh dámhachtainí i réimsí tábhachtacha straitéiseacha de thaighde mara. Bronnfar na tionscadail taighde faoi réir ag conarthaí ina sonraítear go ndéanfar an íocaíocht thosaigh nuair a shíneofear an conradh; déanfar íocaíocht(aí) eatramhach(a) faoi réir ag bhfeidhmíocht shásúil agus déanfar an íocaíocht dheireanach nuair a gheofar agus a fhíorófar éilimh mar aon le cur chun críche tháirgí insoláthartha an tionscadail. Tá na híocaíochtaí seo san áireamh i “Deontais agus Soláthraithe Seirbhíse Seachtracha” sa chuntas loncaim agus Caiteachais.

Tacaíocht Beartais um Thaighde Mara /Oideachas agus For-rochtain/ agus Íocaíochtaí Riaracháin: Áirítear leis seo costais riaracháin, iniúchára agus luachála an Chláir Taighde Mara, tacaíocht bheartais d'eagraíochtaí taighde idirnáisiúnta agus costas na gclár oideachais agus for-rochtana. Áirítear na híocaíochtaí seo i bhfotheidil éagsúla sa chuntas loncaim agus Caiteachais.

Trealamh Caipitil, TF, Soithí, Athfheistithe Soithí agus Aigéaneolaíochta: Áirítear leis sin ceannach trealaimh chaipitil, costais athfheistithe agus costais TF. Déantar na costais seo, a mhéid a chomhlíonann siad an sainmhíniú ar shócmhainn faoi FRS 102, a chaipitliú sa ráiteas ar an staid airgeadais.

Gearrtar caiteachas sna ráitis airgeadais de réir mar a thabhaítear é/dlite de réir bheartas cuntasaíochta an Chláir Taighde Mara. Ar 31 Nollaig 2024 bhí íocaíochtaí de €749,650 (2023: €468,004) gan íoc agus áirítear iad laistigh de shuimeanna iníochta.

13. An Clár Taighde Mara Tiomantais Chaipitil don Todhchaí

Ag tús 2024 bhí 96 tionscadal ar siúl. Bronnadh 52 dámhachtain nua in 2024 agus críochnaíodh 34 dámhachtain in 2024, rud a d’fhág go raibh 114 tionscadal ar siúl amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024.

Déantar anailís mar seo a leanas ar ghealltanais chonarthaacha amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024, nár cuireadh de mhuirear ar na ráitis airgeadais go fóill:

	Iomlán €'000
Gealltanais amhail an 1 Eanáir 2024	14,707
Gealltanais agus Athbhreithnithe 2024	(76)
Ceangaltais Nua 2024 - Deontais don Chlár Taighde Mara	10,712
A íocadh in 2024	(5,529)
Ceangaltais amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024	19,814

14. Cuntas Caipitil agus Cúlchistí Caipitil Coimeádta

	2024 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2023 €'000
Cuntas Caipitil				
Iarmhéid ag an 1 Eanáir		34,655		35,962
<i>Aistriú (chuig)/ón Ráiteas loncaim agus Caiteachais</i>				
Ioncam (glan) leithdháilte do mhaoiniú Caipitil	4,404		4,699	
Muirear dímheasa don bhliain	(6,112)		(6,048)	
Tionchar choigeartú an Chláir Sócmhainní Seasta	(6)	(1,714)	-	(1,349)
Tionchar diúscartha maoine, gléasra agus trealaimh		(4)		(61)
Muirear ar an gCúlchiste Athluachála		144		103
Iarmhéid ag an 31 Nollaig		33,081		34,655

Is ionann iarmhéid comhiomlán an Chuntais Chaipitil (€33.081m) agus an Chúlchiste Athluachála (€6.853m) agus Glanluach Leabhar Réadmhaoine, Gléasra agus Treailaimh de €39.934m amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024.

15. Maoin, Gléasra agus Trealamh

	Talamh agus Maoin agus Feabhsúcháin Léasachta	Soithí Taighde	Sócmhainní atá á dTógáil	Trealamh Soithí	Trealamh/ Daingneáin agus Feistis	Ríomhairí	Mótarfheithiclí	Iomlán
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Costas nó Luacháil								
Iarmhéid ag an 1 Eanáir 2024	9,541	55,500	575	7,001	30,518	8,601	443	112,179
Breiseanna	11	998		569	2,263	425	138	4,404
Diúscairtí	-		-	(12)	(703)	(115)		(830)
Coigeartú an chláir sócmhainní seasta		2	-	(28)	22	-	-	(4)
Aistriú sócmhainní	-	-	(575)	575			-	-
Iarmhéid ag an 31 Nollaig 2024								
	9,552	56,500	-	8,105	32,100	8,911	581	115,749
Dímheas								
Iarmhéid ag an 1 Eanáir 2024	-	27,870	-	6,543	27,956	7,719	439	70,527
Muirear don bhliain airgeadais	241	2,816	-	523	1,813	686	33	6,112
Diúscairt	-		-	(12)	(699)	(115)		(826)
Coigeartú an chláir sócmhainní seasta		13	-	(37)	34	(7)	(1)	2
Iarmhéid ag an 31 Nollaig 2024	241	30,699	-	7,017	29,104	8,283	471	75,815
Glanluach Leabhar								
Amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024	9,311	25,801	-	1,088	2,996	628	110	39,934
Ag an 31 Nollaig 2023	9,541	27,630	575	458	2,562	882	4	41,652

Tá ceanncheathrú Fhoras na Mara ag Rinn an Bhile, Órán Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe. Tá an foirgneamh seo, atá faoi úinéireacht OOP, curtha ar fáil saor ó chíos. Tá talamh agus foirgnimh ag an Institiúid i mBaile Uí Fhiacháin, Co. Mhaigh Eo agus sa Pháirc Mhór, Gaillimh Rinneadh an talamh ar fad, agus an mhaoin ar le Foras na Mara í, a athluacháil suas €2.072m tar éis luacháil ag luachálaithe cáilithe gairmiúla neamhspleácha le linn 2023. Coinnítear na háitribh éagsúla eile a úsáideann an Institiúid i mBaile Átha Cliath agus ag na láithreacha calafoirt timpeall na hÉireann faoi léasanna oibriúcháin nó faoi chomhaontuithe cíosa mar atá leagtha amach i Nóta 20.

Níor aithníodh dímheas an 31 Nollaig 2023 i ndáil le €0.575m de shócmhainní atá á dtógáil. Na míreanna sin a chomhlíonann an sainmhíniú ar shócmhainn ach nach raibh in úsáid an 31 Nollaig 2023, ní raibh tús curtha acu lena saolréanna úsáideacha chun críoch dímheasa ag deireadh na bliana. Le linn 2024, aistríodh míreanna de €0.575m ó shócmhainní a bhí á dtógáil chuig an gcatagóir shócmhainní ábhartha agus bhí siad faoi réir dímheasa le linn na bliana dar chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2024.

De réir bheartas na hInstitiúide, cuirfear tús le dímheas, agus gearrfar bliain iomlán dímheasa sa bhliain a dtagann an tsócmhainn in úsáid.

16. Cúlchiste Athluachála

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Iarmhéid ag an 1 Eanáir	6,997	5,028
Gluaiseacht/scaoileadh sa bhliain	(144)	(103)
Méadú Athluachála	-	2,072
Iarmhéid ag an 31 Nollaig	6,853	6,997

Rinneadh an talamh agus an mhaoin ar le Foras na Mara a athluacháil suas le €2.072m tar éis luacháil a rinne luachálaithe cáilithe gairmiúla neamhspleácha le linn 2023.

17. Infháltais

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Earraí infhaighte trádála	335	195
Ioncam ó Chonarthaí	431	801
Réamhíocaíochtaí	471	480
	1,237	1,476

Tá gach infhaighte dlite laistigh de bhliain amháin agus luaitear iad glan ó aon bhearnú maidir le fiacha amhrasacha.

18. Suimeanna iníoctha

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Suimeanna a bheidh dlite laistigh de bhliain amháin		
Suimeanna Trádála Iníoctha	2,871	4,258
Ioncam larchurtha	12,728	10,394
Fáltais ó Dhiúscairt Sócmhainní atá dlite don Státchiste	2,345	2,345
Fabhrú an Chláir Taighde Mara (Nóta 12)	750	468
Fabhruithe	137	29
Párolla agus Fabhruithe Ioncaim	568	475
Fabhrú Pá Saoire (Nóta 5)	472	444
	19,871	18,413

Amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024, áirítear na glanfháltais a eascraíonn as diúscairt an RV Celtic Voyager laistigh d'airgead tirim agus coibhéisí airgid thirim Fhoras na Mara agus taifeadadh iad laistigh de dhliteanais, mar mhéideanna atá dlite don Státchiste, i gcomhréir le ceadú na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus na na Roinne Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe lena gceadaítear an soitheach a dhiúscairt. In 2024, d'iarr an Foras ar shoiléiriú agus ar fhaomhadh chun na glanfháltais a choimeád chun iad a athinfheistiú i dtionscadail a bhaineann leis an ngrianchumhacht agus leis an aeráid. Má fhaightear cead maidir le láimhseáil mhalartach na gcistí seo, déanfar a thionchar a thaifeadadh i ráitis airgeadais 2025. Sa chás nach bhfuil ceadú ann do láimhseáil mhalartach dá leithéid, cuirfear na glanfháltais ar ais don Státchiste agus glanfar an dliteanas don Státchiste in 2025.

San áireamh sna suimeanna iníoctha agus sa phárolla agus fabhruithe ioncaim thuas tá na méideanna seo a leanas atá dlite do na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim:

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Cáin Shiarchoinneálach ar Sheirbhís Ghairmiúil	212	198
ÍMAT/ÁSPC/MSU	559	472
CBL	241	432
Cáin Chonartha Iomchuí	1	6
	1,013	1,108

19. Scéim Aoisliúntais agus Scéim na Sochar Scoir Ranníocach do Chéilí agus Leanaí

a. Tuairisc Ghinearálta ar an Scéim

Is gníomhaireacht reachtúil Stáit é Foras na Mara, a bunaíodh faoi alt 3(1) den Acht um Fhoras na Mara, 1991 (Uimh. 2 de 1991). Le hAlt 9(1) den Acht foráiltear go ndéanfaidh an Foras scéimeanna chun sochair aoisliúntais a dheonú do chomhaltaí foirne agus ina leith, faoi réir cheadú an Aire. Tá dhá scéim cheadaithe den sórt sin – Scéim Aoisliúntais Fhoireann Fhoras na Mara 1998 agus Scéim Pinsin Ranníocach do Chéilí agus Leanaí Fhoras na Mara 1998 á n-oibriú ag an bhForas. Soláthraíonn an iarscéim sochair scoir (cnapshuim agus pinsean) do bhaill fhoirne agus sochair aisce bháis maidir le bás le linn seirbhíse. Soláthraíonn an scéim ní ba dheireanaí sochair phinsin do chéilí marthanacha agus do leanaí cleithiúnacha na mball nach maireann. Is í an ghnáthaois scoir ná 65ú breithlá an chomhalta. Is scéimeanna aoisliúntais sochair shainithe iad an dá scéim. Íoctar ranníocaíochtaí Aoisliúntais Foirne leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara.

Is í an Scéim Pinsin Seirbhíse Poiblí Aonair (Scéim Aonair) an scéim phinsin shochair shainithe do sheirbhísigh phoiblí inphinsin arna gceapadh den chéad uair ar 1 Eanáir 2013 nó ina dhiaidh de réir an Achta um Pinsin na Seirbhíse Poiblí (Scéim Aonair agus Forálacha Eile) 2012. Soláthraíonn an scéim do phinsean agus cnapshuim scoir bunaithe ar mheánluach saothair inphinsin gairme, agus pinsin chéilí agus leanaí. Is é 66 bliain an aois íosta pinsin (ag ardú de réir athruithe ar aois an phinsin Stáit). Áirítear leis saoráid luathscoir laghdaithe go hachtúireach ó 55 bliain d’aois ar aghaidh. Ardaítear pinsin atá á n-íoc ag teacht leis an treoir-innéacs praghsanna do thomhaltóirí.

Chun críocha tuairiscithe de réir FRS 102, tá an Institiúid tar éis comhairle a fháil ó aachtúire cáilithe a d’ullmhaigh luacháil iomlán chun dliteanais na scéimeanna aoisliúntais amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024 a mheas.

Is iad seo a leanas na príomhthoimhdí aachtúireacha atá bunaithe ar chomhairle aachtúireach ghairmiúil, in aghaidh na bliana:

	2024	2023	2022
Méadú ar ráta boilscithe	2.10%	2.40%	2.60%
Méadú ar ráta tuarastail	3.10%	3.40%	3.60%
Méadú ar ráta pinsin	2.60%	2.90%	3.10%
Ráta lascaine dliteanais scéime	3.65%	3.65%	4.25%

Toisc go bhfuil méaduithe pinsin faoi scéimeanna Fhoras na Mara bunaithe ar arduithe tuarastail seachas ar arduithe praghais, ní gá toimhde boilscithe praghais chun críocha na luachála seo. Mar sin féin, ós rud é go n-éilíonn FRS 102 tagairt do ráta toimhdithe boilscithe, bheadh an ráta thuas oiriúnach chun na críche seo.

Is é seo a leanas an meán-ionchas saoil atá fágtha sa todhchaí de réir na dtáblaí básmhaireachta a úsáidtear chun dliteanais phinsin a chinneadh:

	2024	2023
Fear 65	22.5	22.7 bliana d'aois
Bean 65	24.3	24.4 bliana d'aois

Ar bhonn na foshuíomhanna cuntasáíochta sin agus foshuíomhanna eile agus tríd an modh aonaid réamh-mheasta a fhorordaítear in FRS 102 a chur i bhfeidhm, is iad seo a leanas an tsócmhainn chistiúcháin iarchurtha agus an dliteanas sochar scoir:

	2024	2023
Dlitéanas sochair scoir fabhraithe iomlán	€70.04m	€68.69m

b. Anailís ar na Costais Iomlána Phinsin a cuireadh de mhuirear ar Chaiteachas

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Costas Seirbhíse Reatha	3,015	2,827
Ús ar dhliteanais scéime pinsin	2,495	2,586
Ranníocaíochtaí Fostaithe	(741)	(702)
	4,769	4,711

c. Anailís ar an méid atá aitheanta sa Ráiteas Cuimsitheach Ioncaim

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Gnóthachain Taithí	929	339
Athruithe ar foshuíomhanna aachtúireacha is bun le luach láithreach na scéime	(4,416)	2,525
(Caillteanas)/gnóthachan aachtúireach aitheanta sa Ráiteas ar Ioncam Cuimsitheach	(3,487)	2,864

d. Glanmhaoiniú Iarchurtha do Phinsin Aitheanta sa Bhliain

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Costas Seirbhíse agus Úis Reatha	5,510	5,413
Lúide na sochair a íocadh sa bhliain	(673)	(864)
	4,837	4,549

Aithníonn Foras na Mara méideanna atá dlite ón Stát mar shócmhainn a chomhfhreagraíonn don dliteanas iarchurtha neamhchistithe i leith pinsean ar bhonn an tacair foshuíomhanna cuntasáíochta a thuairiscítear thuas agus roinnt teagmhas roimhe seo. Áirítear ar na himeachtaí seo an bonn reachtúil do bhunú na scéime aoisliúntais agus an polasaí agus an cleachtas maidir le pinsin seirbhíse poiblí a mhaoiniú, lena n-áirítear ranníocaíochtaí ó fhostaithe agus an próiseas meastachán bliantúil. Cosúil le scéimeanna aoisliúntais na seirbhíse poiblí i gcoitinne, ní choinnítear aon chiste ar leith, ná ní shealbhaítear sócmhainní, chun íocaíocht pinsin agus aiscí a mhaoiniú.

Ag teacht leis an nós agus leis an gcleachtas mar atá glactha ag an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara go dtí seo, níl aon fhianaise ag Foras na Mara nach leanfar leis an mbeartas maoinithe seo de na suimeanna sin a bhaint amach de réir an chleachtais reatha. B’ionann an tsócmhainn maoinithe iarchurtha do phinsin amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024 agus €70.04 milliún (2023: €68.69 milliún). Tá cainníochtú an dliteanais bunaithe ar na foshuíomhanna airgeadais a leagtar amach sa nóta seo.

e. Anailís ar ghluaiseacht sa ghlan-dliteanas pinsin i rith na bliana

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Dliteanas ag tús na bliana	68,691	61,278	97,605	88,810	74,341
Costas Seirbhíse Reatha	3,015	2,827	5,079	4,721	4,066
Ús ar Dhliteanais Scéime	2,495	2,586	1,217	708	889
Achtúireach (Gnóthachan)/Caillteanas aitheanta sa Ráiteas ar Ioncam Cuimsitheach	(3,487)	2,864	(42,073)	3,796	9,946
Sochair a íocadh sa bhliain	(673)	(864)	(550)	(430)	(432)
Dliteanas ag deireadh na bliana	70,041	68,691	61,278	97,605	88,810

f. Stair d'Oibleagáidí Sochair Shainithe

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Oibleagáidí sochair easnaimh	70,041	68,691	61,278	97,605	88,810
Gnóthachain/(Caillteanais) Taithí ar Dhliteanais Scéime	929	339	(4,065)	1,515	(1,124)
An Céatadán de Dhliteanais Scéime	1.32%	0.49%	6.6%	1.5%	1.3%
Gnóthachain/(Caillteanais) Tuisceana ar Dhliteanais Scéime	(4,416)	2,525	(46,138)	(5,311)	(8,822)
An Céatadán de Dhliteanais Scéime	6.30%	3.67%	75.3%	5.44%	9.93%

Is é an gnóthachan achtúireach carnach a aithnítear sa Ráiteas ar Ioncam Cuimsitheach ná €11,200,000.

20. Ceangaltais Léasa Oibriúcháin

Tá áitribh ar léas ag Foras na Mara ag na láithreacha seo a leanas amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024:

- Léas 1:** Cuireadh tús le 3 Plás na Páirce, Baile Átha Cliath 2, i Meitheamh 2019 ar feadh tréimhse 25 bliain agus tá sé le críochnú ar 31 Deireadh Fómhair 2044
- Léas 2:** Léas suímh, Calafort na Gaillimhe, lena cuireadh tús in 2024 ar feadh tréimhse 10 mbliana. Bliain a sé den athbhreithniú ar chíos.
- Léas 3:** Cuireadh tús le Talamh Tionsclaíoch, Páirc Theicneolaíochta na Gaillimhe, i 1988 ar feadh tréimhse 999 bliain, le hathbhreithnithe cíosa cúig bliana.
- Léas 4:** Spás Saotharlainne sa Chaisleán Nua ar feadh cúig bliana atá i bhfeidhm ón 1 Meitheamh 2020, agus tá rogha ann an léas a shíneadh ar feadh trí bhliain sa bhreis.
- Léas 5:** Léas urthrá sa Spidéal, arna dheonú ar feadh 35 bliain le héifeacht ón 15 Nollaig 2017.

Tá an t-áitreabh seo a leanas ag Foras na Mara freisin áit a bhfuil na léasanna imithe in éag amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024. Tá léasanna nua nó socruithe cíosa aontaithe nó á gcomhaontú ach níl léasanna oibriúcháin neamh-incháilithe i bhfeidhm amhail an 31 Nollaig 2024.

Suíomh 1: Páirc Oifige na Páirce Móire, Gaillimh

Suíomh 2: Spás Saotharlainne i mBaile Chaisleáin Bhéarra

Tá roinnt comhaontuithe cíosa gearrthéarmacha ag an Institiúid freisin maidir le céanna, saotharlann agus seideanna.

Is iad seo a leanas iomlán na n-íocaíochtaí léasa íosta todhchaí faoi léasanna oibriúcháin neamh-incháilithe, baineann siad ar fad le Talamh & Foirgnimh:

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Maidir le léasanna:		
Iníoctha laistigh de bhliain amháin	272	139
Iníoctha idir 2 bhliain agus 5 bliana	1,071	516
Iníoctha ina dhiaidh sin	2,350	1,917
	3,693	2,572

B'ionann íocaíochtaí léasa oibriúcháin agus cíosa a aithníodh mar chaiteachas in 2024 agus €319,515 (2023: €288,748).

21. Idirbhearta Páirtithe Gaolmhara

Is páirtí rialaithe í Charlotte O’Kelly Uasal, comhalta de Bhord Fhoras na Mara, agus comhalta Boird de Techworks Marine Limited, soláthraí de chuid Fhoras na Mara. B’ionann ceannacháin (gan CBL) ó Techworks Marine Limited agus €67,318 in 2024 agus €134,030 in 2023. Rinneadh na hidirbhearta go léir ar neamhthuilleamaí de réir ghnáthnósanna imeachta soláthair an Fhorais, i gcomhréir le rialacháin soláthair poiblí.

22. Clár leasanna

Tá nósanna imeachta glactha ag an bhForas de réir na dtreoirlínte atá eisithe ag an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadadh PFN agus Athchóirithe maidir le nochtadh leasanna ag an mBord agus chloígh an Foras leis na nósanna imeachta seo. Seachas na hidirbhearta le Techworks Marine Limited a nochtar i nóta 21, ní raibh aon idirbhearta i rith na bliana maidir le gníomhaíochtaí an Fhorais a raibh leas tairbhiúil ag comhaltaí an Bhoird iontu.

23. Imeachtaí tar éis dheireadh na bliana airgeadais

Níl an Bord ar an eolas faoi aon teagmhais a tharla tar éis an 31 Nollaig 2024 a théann i bhfeidhm ar na ráitis airgeadais seo.

24. Formheas an Bhoird

Glacadh leis na ráitis airgeadais ag an mBord ar an 24 Meitheamh 2025.



Ceanncheathrú Fhoras na Mara

Rinn Mhíl, Órán Mór
Contae na Gaillimhe,
H91 R673

Guthán: +353 91 387 200

Ríomhphost: institute.mail@marine.ie

Foras na Mara Baile Átha Cliath

Three Park Place,
Sráid Haiste Uachtarach,
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 FX65

Guthán: +353 1 7753900

Ríomhphost: institute.mail@marine.ie

Saoráid Taighde Dobharcheantar Fhoras na Mara

Foirnéis,
Baile Uí Fhiacháin, Contae Mhaigh Eo.
F28 PF65

Guthán: +353 98 42300

Ríomhphost: institute.mail@marine.ie

 [marineinstituteireland](https://www.facebook.com/marineinstituteireland)

 [marine-institute](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-institute)

 [@MarineInst](https://twitter.com/MarineInst)

 [@marineinstituteÉire](https://www.instagram.com/marineinstituteÉire)

www.marine.ie