



National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)

Screening in Compliance with the Requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive

Introduction

The SEA Directive applies to a wide range of **public** plans and programmes. Plans and programmes in the sense of the SEA Directive must be prepared or adopted by an **authority** (at national, regional or local level) and be **required** by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

An SEA is **mandatory** for plans/programmes which are:

- prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use and which **set the framework** for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive;
- or
- have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.

Key Facts Relating to the National Marine Planning Framework

SEA Screening Key Facts	
Responsible Authority	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
Title of Plan	National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)
What Prompted the Plan	EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU as transposed by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 (Part 5)
Subject	Marine planning
Area covered by the Plan	The NMPF will apply from the high-water mark in Ireland's coastal waters, territorial seas, exclusive economic zone and in designated parts of the continental shelf
Summary of Nature / Content of the Plan	The NMPF will set out how Ireland intends to manage its marine area by providing an effective management tool to allow for more sustainable use of marine resources. The NMPF will be a parallel document to the National Planning Framework (NPF). The latter has recognised the need for





	integration and coordination between the marine and land planning regimes at the national, regional and local level recognising that many activities and uses that take place on land or in the sea can have impacts on both the maritime and land areas.
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Conclusion

The requirement to carry out SEA has been determined with reference to Article 9(1) of S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended. This establishes those plans and programmes for which SEA is mandatory within the meaning of plan/programme for the purposes of SEA. In accordance with the provisions of S.I. 435, and specifically Art. 9(1), the following can be confirmed:

- The National Marine Planning Framework is a public plan.
- It will be prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- The plan is a national scale plan which will be adopted by Government.
- It is required by EU and national legislation.
- The plan will address a range of issues for which SEA is mandatory, including fisheries, energy, transport, water management and tourism. It will coordinate with the land uses identified in the corresponding National Planning Framework which itself went through SEA.
- Furthermore, it is intended that the plan will set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive. It is also anticipated that it will require assessment under the Habitats Directive.

With reference to the above, it has therefore been concluded that mandatory SEA is required for the National Marine Planning Framework under Art. 9(1) of S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended.

Philip Nugent,
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