

Hello

Please see comments regarding fisheries below:

Noting that agricultural run off can lead to river and coastal eutrophication, and the harm hypoxia and algal blooms can do to fish, it is important to ensure that eutrophication in the marine environment is accounted for in the Strategic Plan. Marine eutrophication is addressed in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive under Descriptor 5: Eutrophication. It is essential that we continue to achieve GES for eutrophication in the Irish marine environment.

From the 2020 MSFD Article 17 Update of Assessment, Determination of Good Environmental Status (GES) & Environmental Targets: *“Ireland assessed the status of the marine environment against the three primary criteria set out in the Commission Decision: nutrients; chlorophyll a and dissolved oxygen, with the threshold values for these criteria based on the Water Framework Directive for inshore waters and estuaries and OSPAR for the wider MSFD area. Ireland has achieved Good Environmental Status for eutrophication within its maritime area, for the three primary criteria assessed; nutrients; chlorophyll and dissolved oxygen.*

“This assessment has shown that the areas considered at risk of eutrophication are located inshore, predominantly along the eastern, south eastern and southern coasts.”

Commercial sea fishing is a long standing, pre-existing and traditional activity in the marine environment. The evaluation of potential impacts on any commercial sea fishing activities needs to be given consideration as part of any planning/proposal process and during the development process itself. It is imperative that engagement should be sought with the fishing industry and other relevant stakeholders at as early a stage as possible to discuss any changes that may affect them to afford a chance for their input. Fishers’ interests and livelihoods must be fully recognised, supported, and taken into account.

An tAonad um Chomhordú Timpeallachta, An Rannóg um Athrú Aeráide agus Beartas Bithfhuinnimh,

Environmental Co-ordination Unit | Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy Division |

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine