Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Addendum to Public Participation Statement for the National Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy

Q1 March 2026

Prepared by the Department of
Climate, Energy and the Environment
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Table of Contents

Table of Contents i

Q4 2025: National ORE DMAP Inter-Departmental Consultations 2

Q1 2026: Project Manager, Community Liaison Services and Fisheries Liaison Services appointed, and Sectoral Stakeholder Workshops hosted 3

Q2 2026: Roll out of Regional Engagement Programme 4

Getting in touch with our Community Liaison Services and our Fishery Liaison Services Teams: 6

Glossary of Acronyms 7

Q4 2025: National ORE DMAP Inter-Departmental Consultations

The PPS commits that the Department will develop the National DMAP for ORE in consultation and collaboration with authorities, relevant stakeholders and the public, and will adopt a collaborative, comprehensive and integrated approach to stakeholder and public participation in the process.

Since the publication of the DMAP Proposal and PPS in September 2025, the Department has consulted across Government with relevant Government departments and state agencies. These meetings included a presentation from the project team on the preparatory work carried out to date, the development of the evidence base and data and proposed engagement including with agencies under the remit of each department. The Department welcomed input from cross departmental officials on the DMAP development process and the data to inform the preparation of the draft plan and its assessments.

On the 4th December 2025, the Department briefed the MSP Advisory Group on the plan process and proposals for stakeholder engagement over 2026 including with the sectors represented on the MSP Advisory Group (government bodies, social, economic, education and environmental). The table below summarises engagement undertaken with Government Departments, agencies and the MSP Advisory Group in Q4 2025.

Date	Dept/Agency	Location
6th November 2025	DETE	DCEE, Tom Johnson House, Beggars Bush
19th November 2025	DRCD	Online
19th November 2025	DCCS	Online
24th November 2025	DOD	Online
28th November 2025	NPWS	DCEE, Tom Johnson House, Beggars Bush
3rd December 2025	DAFM	DAFM, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
4th December 2025	MSP Advisory Group	Online
11th December 2025	DoT	Department of Transport, Leeson Lane, Dublin
13th January 2026	SEAI	Online

The DMAP project team finalised an engagement schedule for pre-draft sectoral focused workshops including ORE industry, Fisheries and Environmental NGO representative groups (respectively). These in-person workshops took place planned to take place in DCEE headquarters in February and March 2026. Further pre-draft stakeholder workshops and engagement will be planned for over the course of Q2 and Q3 2026.

Q1 2026: Project Manager, Community Liaison Services and Fisheries Liaison Services appointed, and Sectoral Stakeholder Workshops hosted

Public participation and meaningful stakeholder engagement underpin this plan-led process. To support effective engagement throughout the DMAP process, a dedicated Community Liaison Service (CLS) and dedicated Fisheries Liaison Service (FLS) has been contracted.

Former Navy Commander Brian Fitzgerald and Fishery Liaisons Ltd headed by Mark O'Reilly, were appointed after a public procurement process to fill the roles of Community Liaison Services and Fishery Liaison Services respectively.

The role of the Community Liaison Service will be to act as the main point of contact between coastal communities and the National DMAP Project team. The Fishery Liaison Services team will work closely with the seafood sector to ensure their input to the process.

External consultants, MacCabe Durney Barnes, in association with AARC were appointed to lead the Project Management Services of the National ORE DMAP in January. The consultants will support the National ORE DMAP Project Team to define project scope, monitor progress and ensure proposed milestones are met.

Over February and March 2026, the DMAP team completed a series of sectoral focused workshops with the ORE and Ports Industry, Seafood Sector and Environmental NGOs , each of which were held at DCEE Headquarters, Beggar's Bush, Dublin. The events were:

- ORE and Ports Industry Workshop 4th February 2026 (71 attendees)
- Seafood and Fishing Sector Workshop 24th February 2026 (50 attendees).
- Environmental NGO Workshop 13th March 2026 (44 attendees).

In advance of each workshop, an on-line briefing was held with registered attendees to explain the workshop format, agenda, tasks and questions which the participants would engage with during the workshop. These briefings ensured all attending were provided with

information on the purpose of the workshop and provided an opportunity to prepare in advance.

The workshops provided context presentations about the National DMAP for ORE process and its assessments, group discussions and table exercises on data and evidence, discussions and table exercises on potential locations suitable and not suitable for future ORE, issues to consider in the development of plan policy and opportunities for participant advice and feedback.

The outcomes of each workshop were recorded, and all feedback will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft National DMAP for ORE and its assessments. A report on the workshops and outcomes will be presented to the MSP Advisory Group, scheduled for 27th April 2026.

A Regional Stakeholder Participation Programme was prepared in Q1 2026 to support on-going dialogue and effective participation on a regional basis with cross sectoral stakeholders during the preparation stages of the Draft National DMAP for ORE and its environmental and social and economic impact assessments.

The Regional participation events will target cross sectoral stakeholders in each region and will include information briefings led through the FLS (led by Mark O Relly), CLS (led by Captain Brian Fitzgerald) and the DCEE project team.

These regional information sharing events will provide valuable knowledge and feedback to support the draft preparation stage of the National DMAP for ORE and will be a foundation for future public consultation events from Q1 2027, when the Draft National DMAP for ORE and its environmental and social and economic impact assessments are published.

The invited attendees are based on FLS stakeholder data base of registered fishermen in the catchment of Fishery Harbour Centres and CLS networks (including working with Local Authority Public Participation Networks, Strategic Policy Committees, Local Community Development Committees etc) capturing regional and local businesses, community, environmental and education stakeholders.

Q2 2026: Roll out of Regional Engagement Programme

The Regional Stakeholder Participation Programme will commence at the end of March and continue until late May. There will be 19 in-person events held with invited stakeholders

across the seafood/fishing sector; regional/local business sector; social and environmental sectors, all with the support of the FLS and CLS.

Dates (Updated 30th March 2026)	Region (Venues TBC):
25th March 2026	Dun Laoghaire
26th March 2026	Wicklow
14th April 2026	Dunmore East
15th April 2026	Waterford City
16th April 2026	Cork City
28th April 2026	Castletownbere
29th April 2026	Tralee (morning) Dingle (afternoon/evening)
30th April 2026	Limerick (morning) Ennis (afternoon/evening)
6th May 2026	Rossaveal, Co. Galway
7th May 2026	Galway City
12th May 2026	Westport, Co. Mayo
13th May 2026	Killybegs, Co. Donegal
14th May 2026	Donegal Town
15th May 2026	Sligo
18th May 2026	Howth
19th May 2026	Athlone, Co. Westmeath
20th May 2026	Dundalk, Co. Louth

The Department continue to engage with state agencies and the regional and local government sector to support the evidence base and identify issues to be addressed in the draft National DMAP for ORE and assessments. This includes the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, the Regional Assemblies, the Coastal Planning Authorities through the City and County Managers Association, Eirgrid, Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Office of Public works, Geological Survey of Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Uisce Èireann, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Commissioners of Irish Lights, Marine Survey Office, Irish

Aviation Authority, Irish Coast Guard as some examples. In addition, the Seafood ORE Working Group were briefed and will be updated throughout the process.

Regional Assemblies, coastal planning authorities (through the CCMA) and elected officials will continue to be engaged throughout 2026. Engagement with relevant state agencies will be on-going.

Getting in touch with our Community Liaison Services and our Fishery Liaison Services Teams:

Community Liaison Services, Brian Fitzgerald: brianfitzgeraldclo@outlook.com

Fishery Liaison Services, Mark O'Reilly: mark@fishery-liaisons.com

Glossary of Acronyms

CCMA	City and County Management Association
DMAP	Designated Maritime Area Plan
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DCCS	Department of Culture, Communications and Sport
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
DOD	Department of Defence
DoT	Department of Transport
DRCD	Department of Rural Community Development and the Gaeltacht
eNGO	Environmental Non-Government Organisation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
MAP Act	Maritime Area Planning Act 2021
MARA	Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MI	Marine Institute
MSO	Marine Survey Office
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPF	National Planning Framework
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
PPS	Public Participation Statement
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland