Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Ireland's Marine Strategy Part 1

Article 8, 9 and 10 report
Annex V

2024

Prepared by the Department of
Housing, Local Government and Heritage
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Ireland's Marine Strategy Part 1

This document is Annex V to Part 1 of Ireland's Marine Strategy: Assessment (Article 8), Determination of Good Environmental Status (GES) (Article 9) and Environmental Targets (Article 10) under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). This document specifically contains Ireland's updated Marine Reporting Units.

Acknowledgements

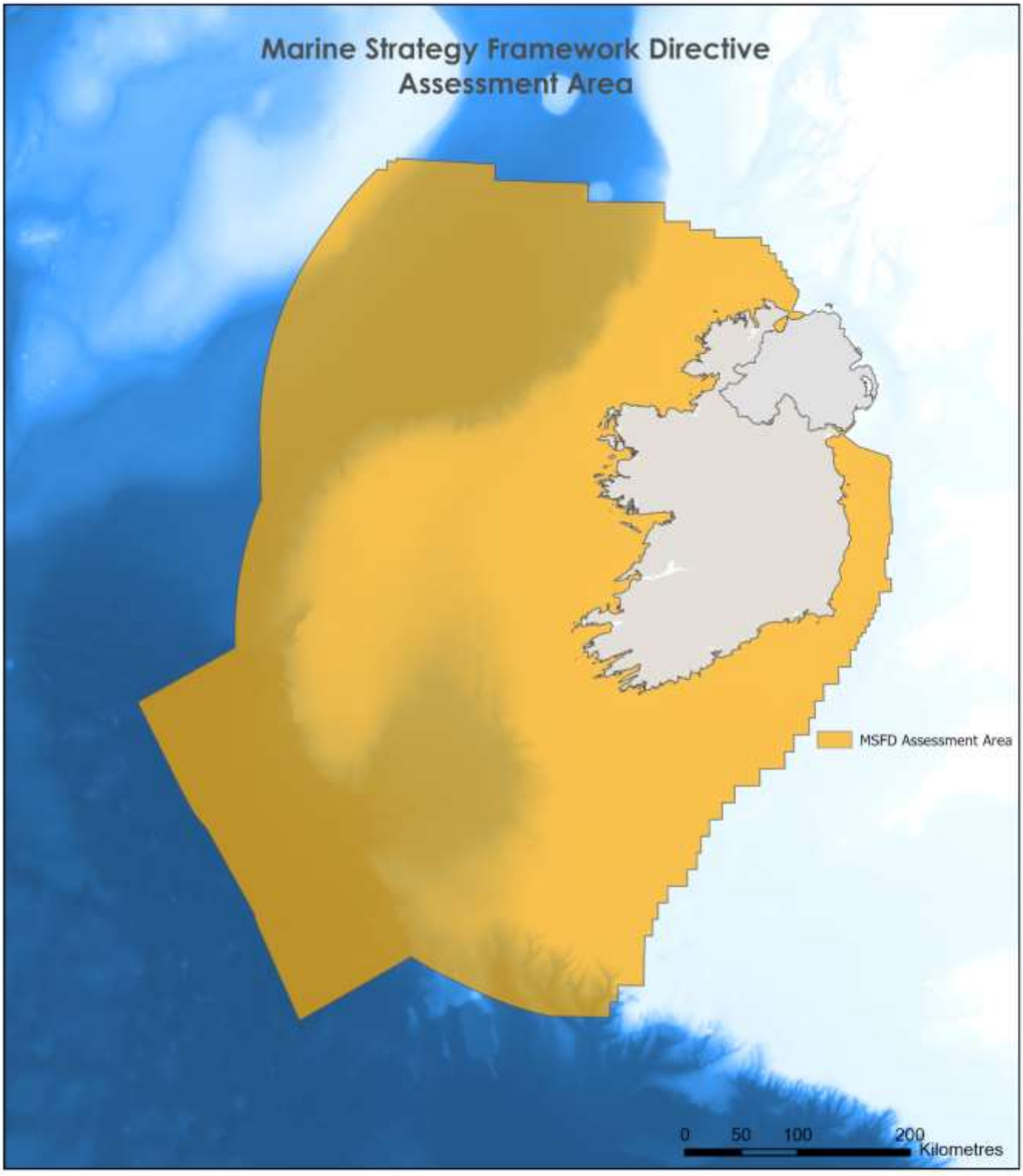
The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for the preparation of Ireland's Marine Strategy for the MSFD on behalf of the Government, with input from other Departments, Agencies and Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations.

This assessment is the result of ongoing engagement and co-operation between a number of bodies including:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
    - Marine Environment Section (MES)
    - Water Advisory Unit (WAU)
    - National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- Marine Institute (MI)
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Department of Transport (DoT)
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)
- Environmental non-Government Organisation (eNGO) representatives (Coastwatch and Irish Wildlife Trust)
- An Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)

Table 1. Irelands Marine Reporting Units under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and their related Descriptors are presented below. D1 = Biodiversity, D2 = Non-Indigenous Species, D3 = Commerical Fish and shellfish; D4 = Foodwebs, D5 = Eutrophication, D6 = Seafloor Integrity, D7 = Hydrographical Conditions; D8 = Contaminants; D9 = Contaminants in seafood; D10 = Marine Litter; D11 = Underwater Noise.

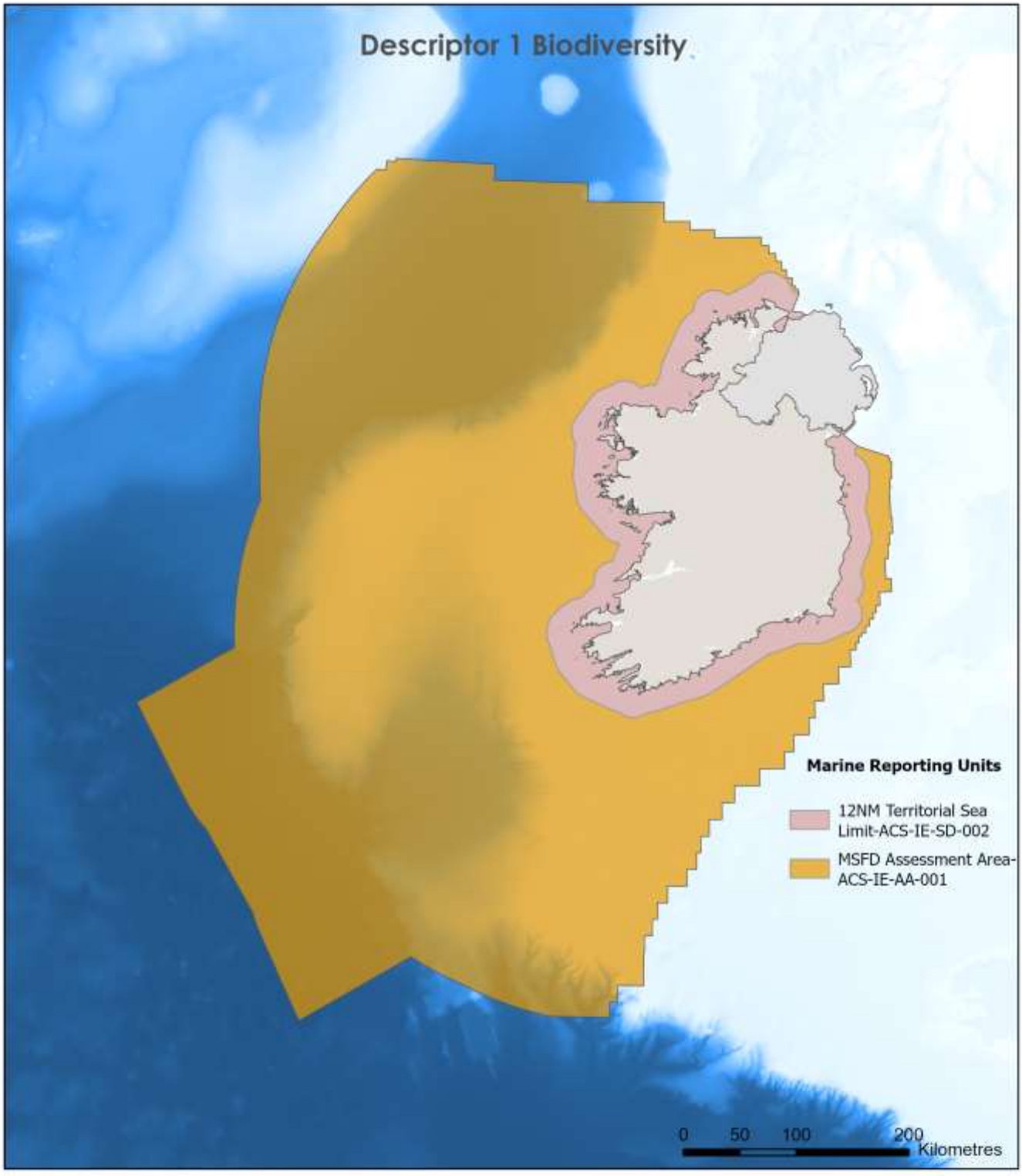
Marine Reporting Unit	Marine Reporting Unit Name	Descriptor
ACS-IE-AA-001	MSFD Assessment Area	D1, D3, D11
ACS-IE-SD-002	12NM Territorial Sea Limit	D1
ACS-IE-SD-003	Water Framework Directive - Coastal Water Bodies	D2, D10
ACS-IE-SD-004	Water Framework Directive - Coastal Water Bodies - Typology - Exposed	D5, D7
ACS-IE-SD-005	Water Framework Directive - Coastal Water Bodies - Typology - Moderately Exposed	D5, D7
ACS-IE-SD-006	Water Framework Directive - Coastal Water Bodies - Typology - Sheltered	D5, D7
ACS-IE-SD-007	MSFD Assessment Area less Water Framework Directive - Coastal Water Bodies	D7, D10
ACS-IE-MS-008	OSPAR Region 3	D4
ACS-IE-MS-009	OSPAR Region 5	D4
ACS-IE-SD-010	OSPAR COMPEAT - Atlantic	D5
ACS-IE-SD-011	OSPAR COMPEAT - Atlantic Seasonally Stratified	D5
ACS-IE-SD-012	OSPAR COMPEAT - Coastal IRL 3	D5
ACS-IE-SD-013	OSPAR COMPEAT - Intermittently Stratified 1	D5
ACS-IE-SD-014	OSPAR COMPEAT - Scottish Sea	D5
ACS-IE-SD-015	OSPAR COMPEAT - Shannon Plume	D5
ACS-IE-MS-016	OSPAR Subregion - Celtic Sea	D6, D8
ACS-IE-MS-017	OSPAR Subregion - Irish Sea	D8
ACS-IE-MS-018	OSPAR Subregion - Irish and Scottish West Coast	D8
ACS-IE-MS-019	Celtic Seas - North Inner	D6
ACS-IE-MS-020	Celtic Seas - North Outer	D6
ACS-IE-MS-021	Celtic Seas - South Outer	D6
ACS-IE-SD-022	Shellfish Waters Directive - Shellfish Waters	D9
ACS-IE-SD-023	MSFD Assessment Area less Shellfish Waters Directive - Shellfish Waters	D9



This map is to be used for reference only.

Water Depth
0
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



This map is to be used for reference only.

Area Name	Feature
MSFD Assessment Area	Baleen whales
MSFD Assessment Area	Benthic-feeding birds
MSFD Assessment Area	Coastal fish
MSFD Assessment Area	Coastal/shelf cephalopods
MSFD Assessment Area	Deep-diving toothed cetaceans
MSFD Assessment Area	Deep-sea cephalopods

Area Name	Feature
MSFD Assessment Area	Deep-sea fish
MSFD Assessment Area	Demersal shelf fish
12NM Territorial Sea Limit	Grazing birds
MSFD Assessment Area	Other pelagic habitats
MSFD Assessment Area	Pelagic broad habitats
MSFD Assessment Area	Pelagic shelf fish

Area Name	Feature
MSFD Assessment Area	Pelagic-feeding birds
MSFD Assessment Area	Seals
MSFD Assessment Area	Small toothed cetaceans
MSFD Assessment Area	Surface-feeding birds
MSFD Assessment Area	Turtles
12NM Territorial Sea Limit	Wading birds

Water Depth
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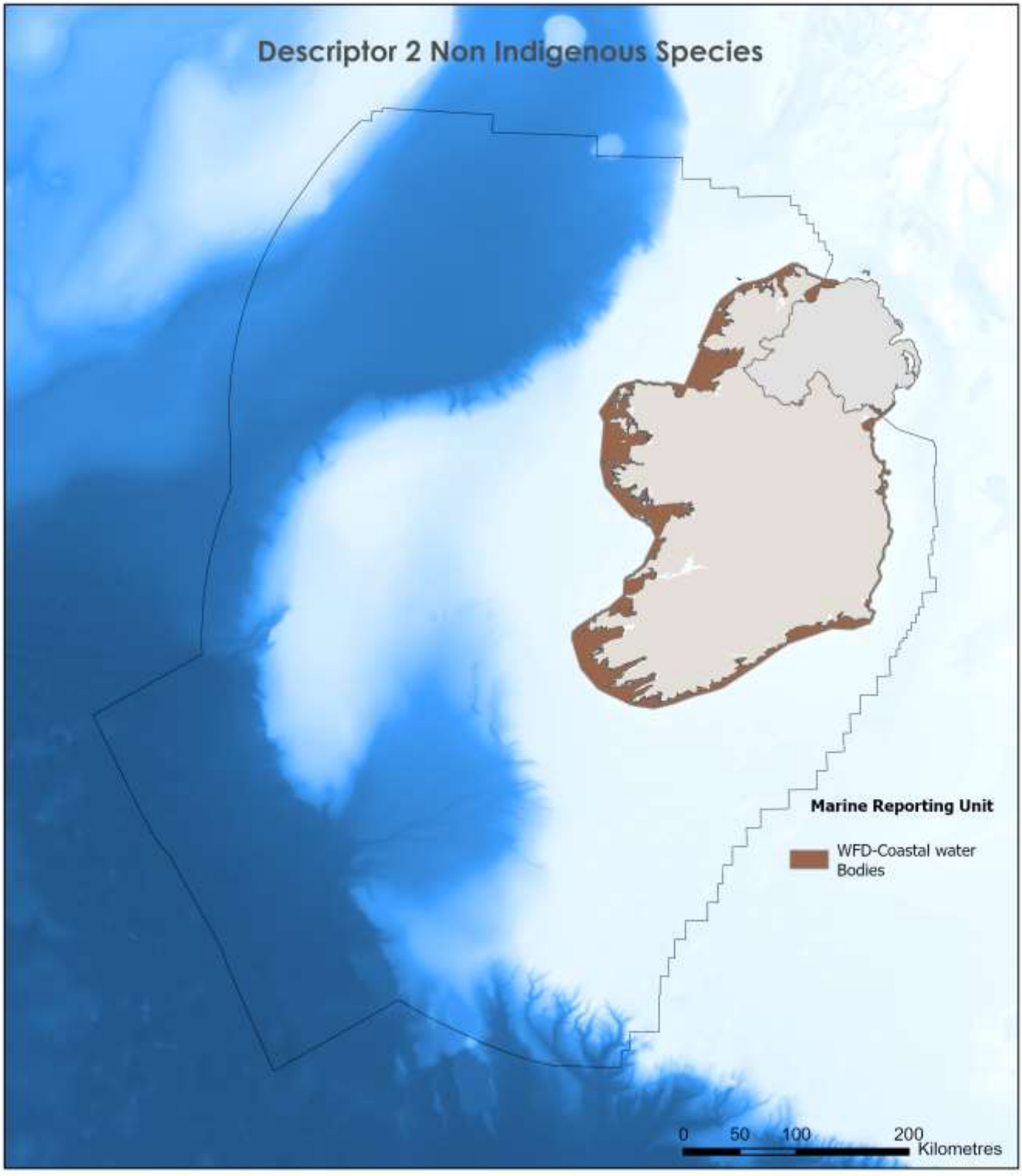
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



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Area Name	Feature
WFD-Coastal water Bodies	Newly-introduced NIS

Water Depth
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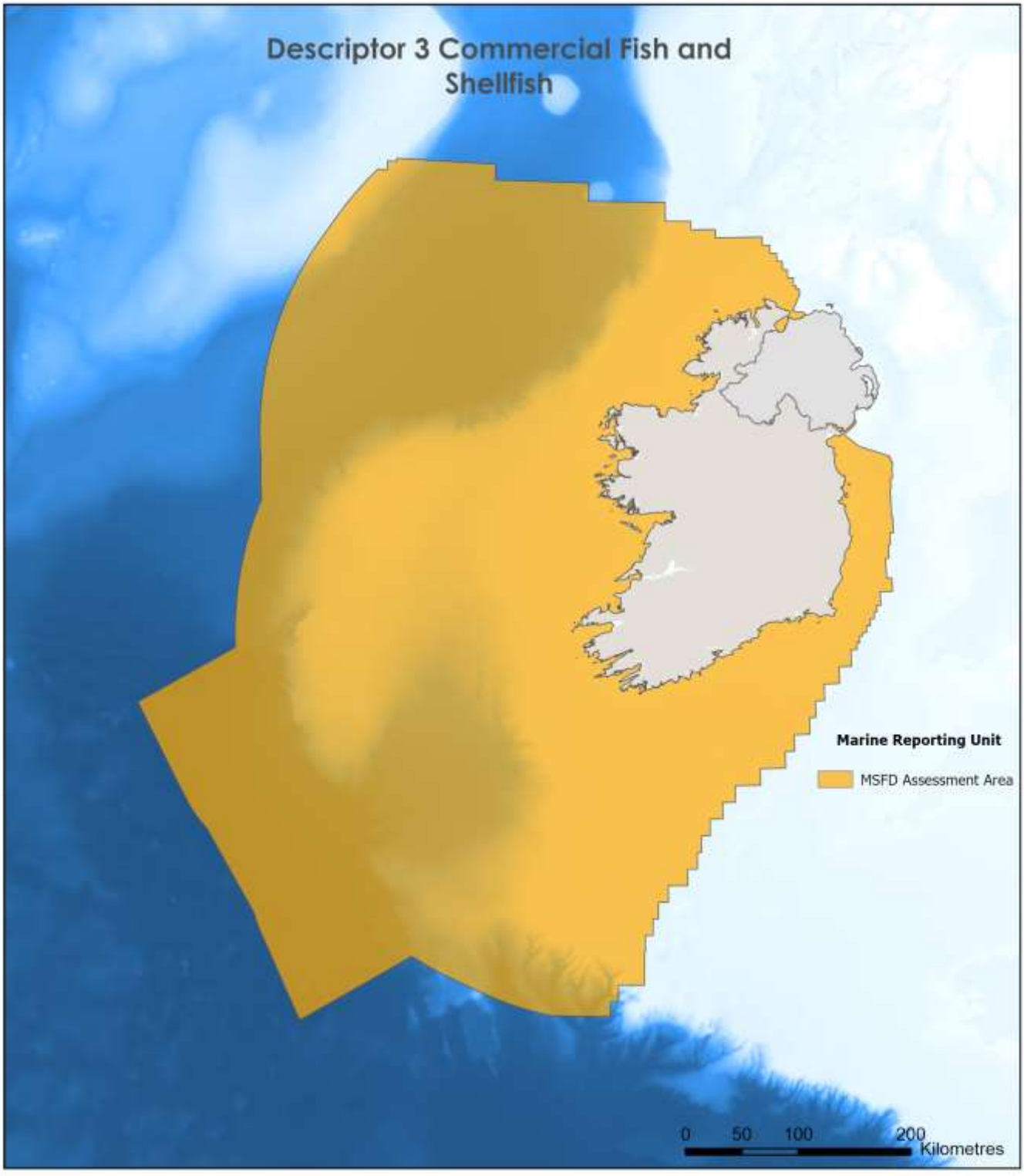
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).

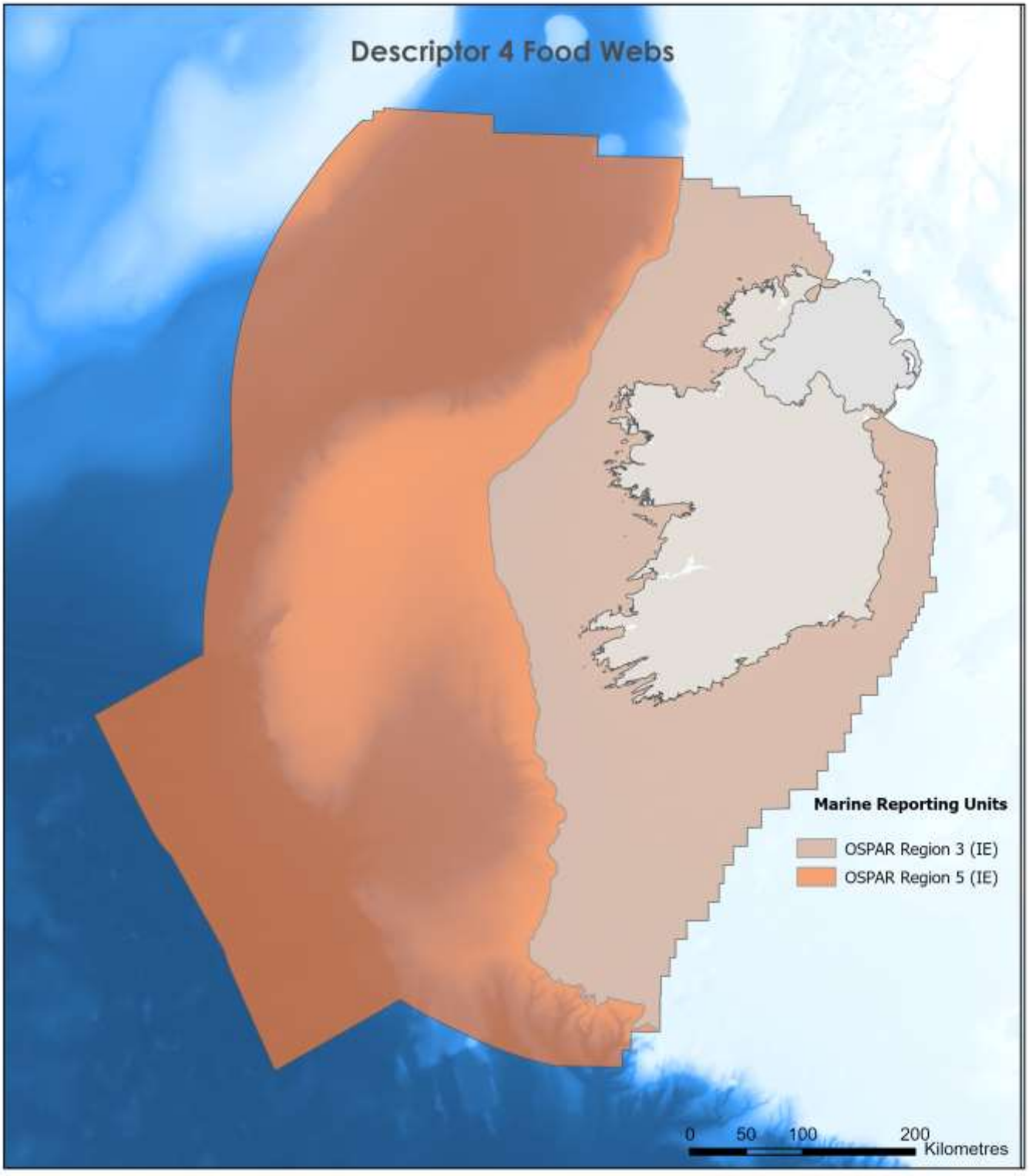


This map is to be used for reference only.

Area Name	Feature
MSFD Assessment Area	Commercially exploited fish and shellfish

Water Depth
0
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



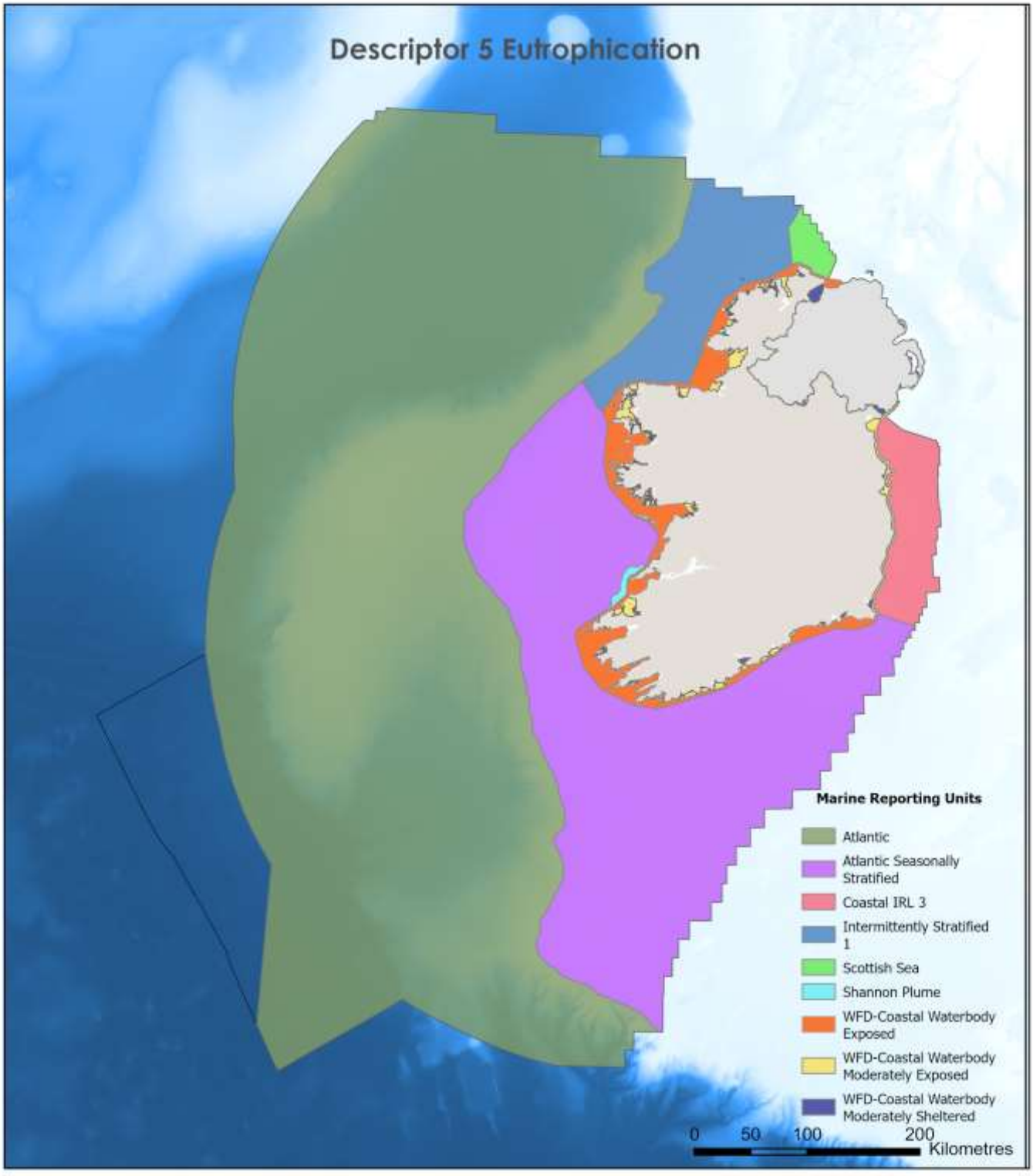
This map is to be used for reference only.

Area Name	Feature
OSPAR Region 3 (IE)	Coastal ecosystems
OSPAR Region 3 (IE)	Shelf ecosystems
OSPAR Region 3 (IE)	Oceanic/deepsea ecosystems

Area Name	Feature
OSPAR Region 5 (IE)	Coastal ecosystems
OSPAR Region 5 (IE)	Shelf ecosystems
OSPAR Region 5 (IE)	Oceanic/deepsea ecosystems

Water Depth
0
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



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Area Name	Feature	Area Name	Feature
WFD-Coastal Waterbody Exposed	Eutrophication	Coastal IRL 3	Eutrophication
WFD-Coastal Waterbody Moderately Exposed	Eutrophication	Intermittently Stratified 1	Eutrophication
WFD-Coastal Waterbody Moderately Sheltered	Eutrophication	Scottish Sea	Eutrophication
Atlantic	Eutrophication	Shannon Plume	Eutrophication
Atlantic Seasonally Stratified	Eutrophication		

Water Depth
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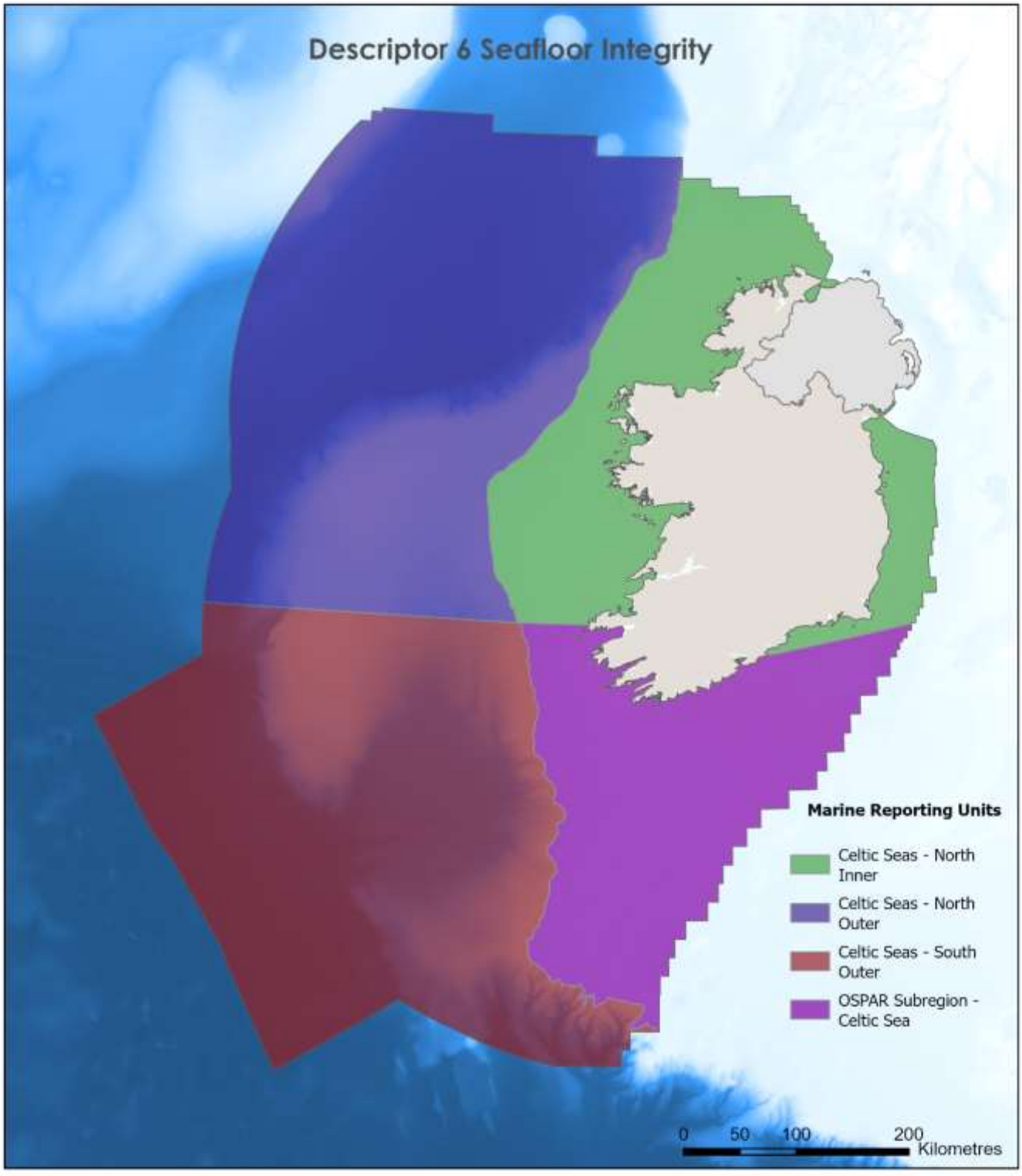
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



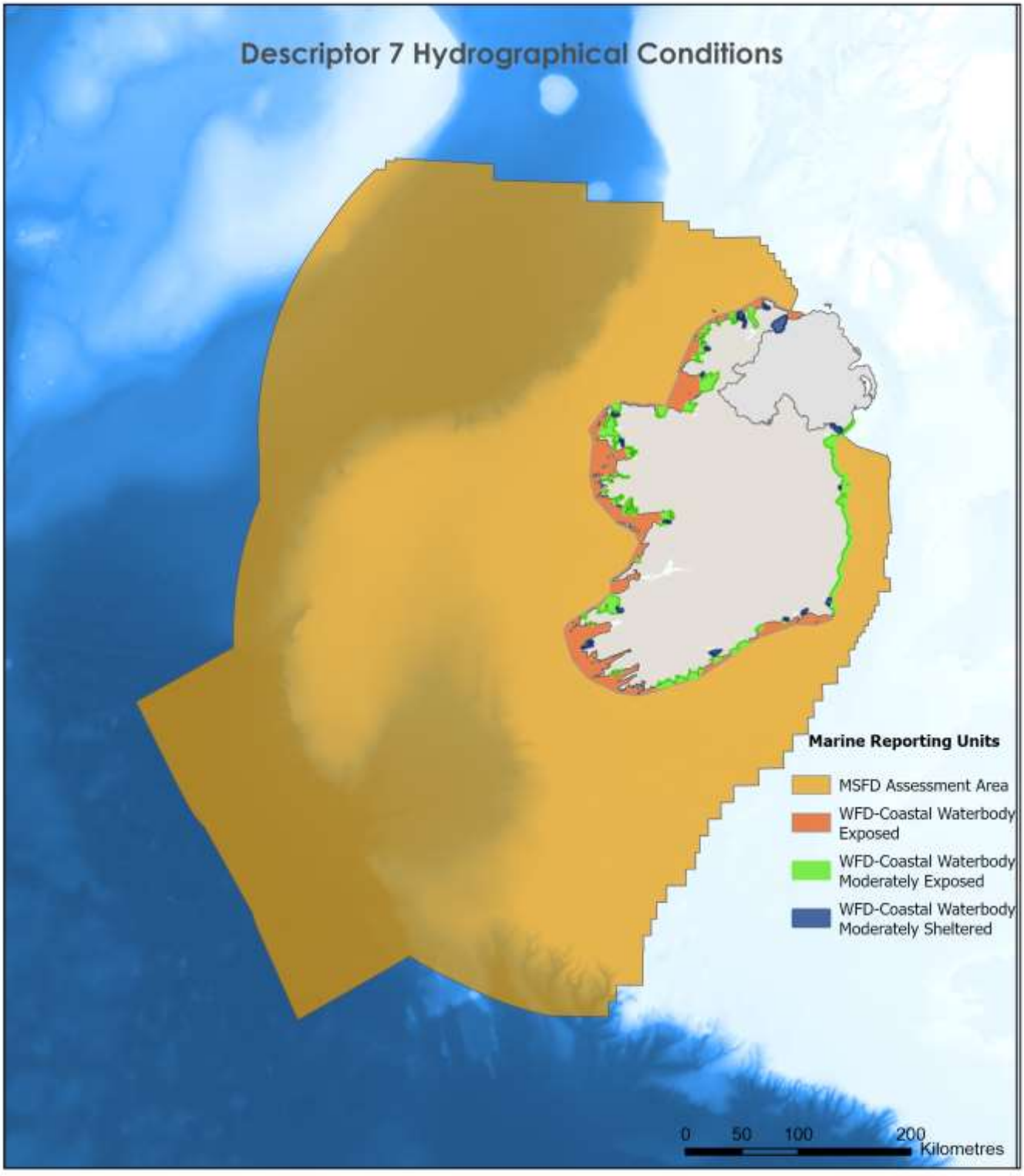
This map is to be used for reference only.

Area Name	Feature
OSPAR Subregion - Celtic Sea	Physical loss of the seabed
OSPAR Subregion - Celtic Sea	Physical disturbance to seabed
OSPAR Subregion - Celtic Sea	Benthic broad habitat types (BHT)
OSPAR Subregion - Celtic Sea	and other habitat types (OHT)
Celtic Seas - North Inner	Physical loss of the seabed
Celtic Seas - North Inner	Physical disturbance to seabed
Celtic Seas - North Inner	Benthic broad habitat types (BHT)
Celtic Seas - North Inner	and other habitat types (OHT)

Area Name	Feature
Celtic Seas - North Outer	Physical loss of the seabed
Celtic Seas - North Outer	Physical disturbance to seabed
Celtic Seas - North Outer	Benthic broad habitat types (BHT)
Celtic Seas - North Outer	and other habitat types (OHT)
Celtic Seas - South Outer	Physical loss of the seabed
Celtic Seas - South Outer	Physical disturbance to seabed
Celtic Seas - South Outer	Benthic broad habitat types (BHT)
Celtic Seas - South Outer	and other habitat types (OHT)

Water Depth
0
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



This map is to be used for reference only.

Area Name	Feature
WFD-Coastal Waterbody Exposed	Hydrographical Changes
WFD-Coastal Waterbody Moderately Exposed	Hydrographical Changes
WFD-Coastal Waterbody Moderately Sheltered	Hydrographical Changes
MSFD Assessment Area	Hydrographical Changes

Water Depth
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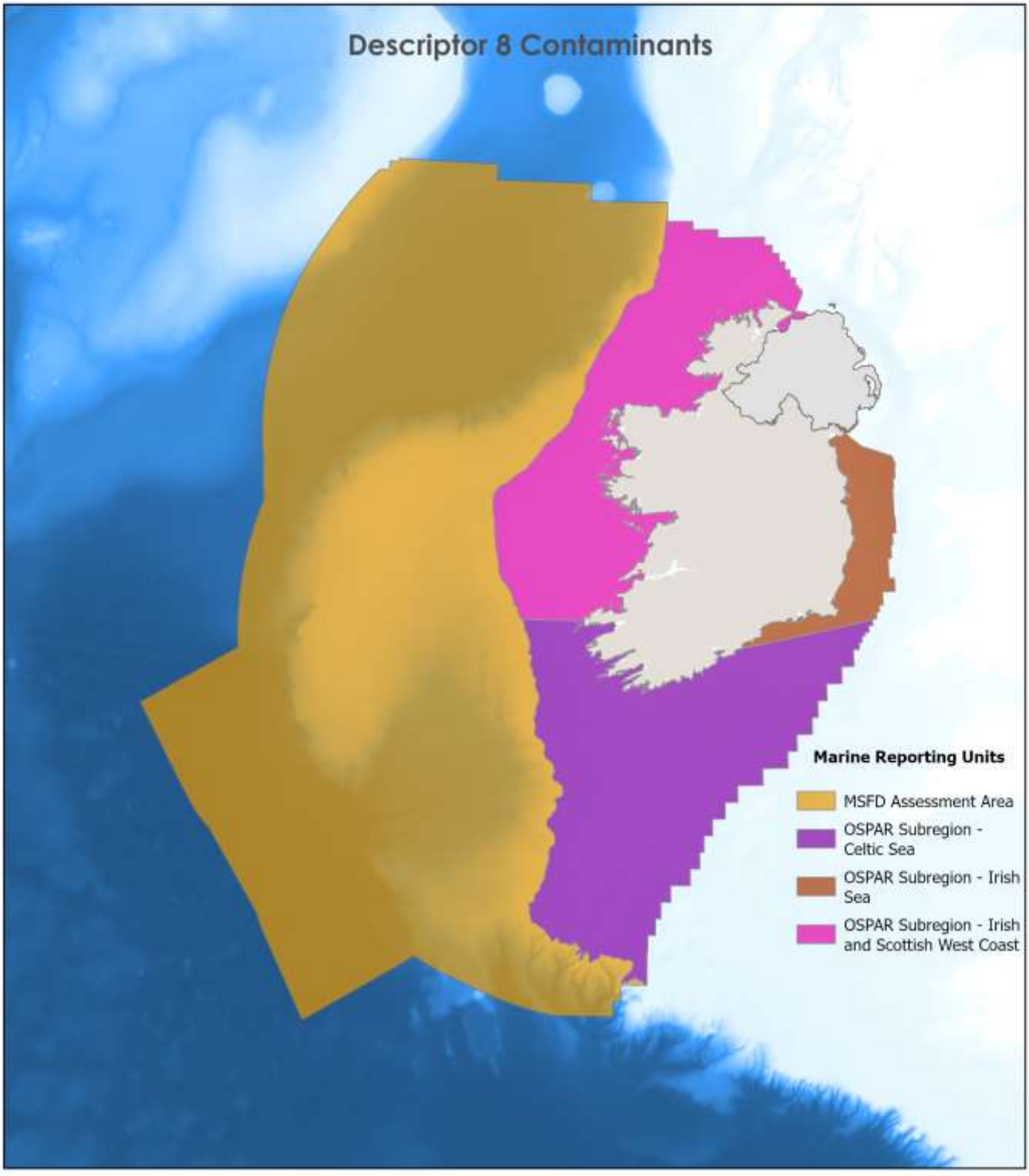
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



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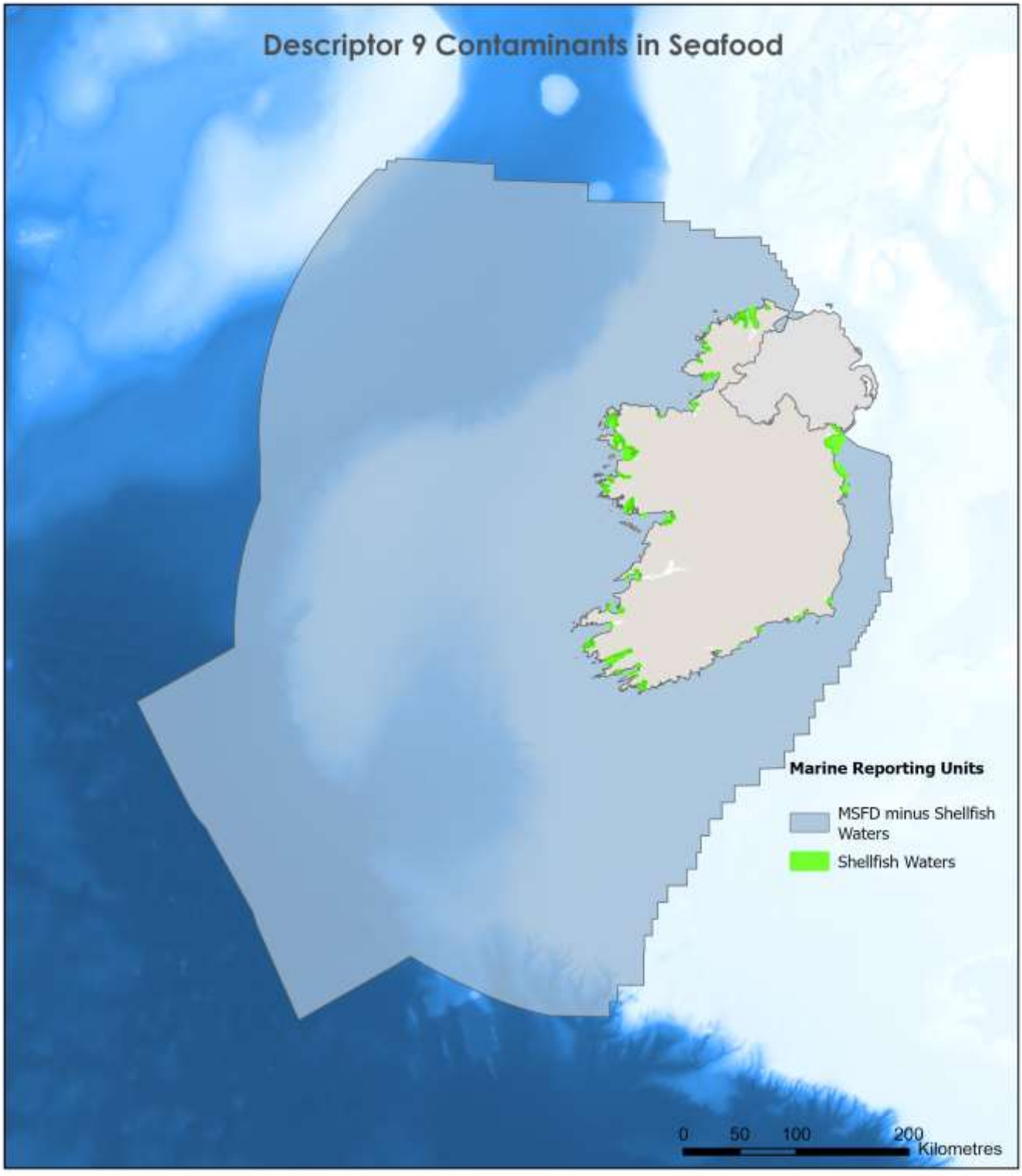
Area Name	Feature
MSFD Assessment Area	Accute Pollution Events
OSPAR Subregion - Celtic Sea	Contaminants- non UPBT substances
OSPAR Subregion - Celtic Sea	Contaminants- UPBT substances
OSPAR Subregion - Irish Sea	Contaminants- non UPBT substances
OSPAR Subregion - Irish Sea	Contaminants- UPBT substances
OSPAR Subregion - Irish and Scottish West Coast	Contaminants- non UPBT substances
OSPAR Subregion - Irish and Scottish West Coast	Contaminants- UPBT substances

Water Depth
0
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



This map is to be used for reference only.

Area Name	Feature
Shellfish Waters	Contaminants in Seafood
MSFD minus Shellfish Waters	Contaminants in Seafood

Water Depth
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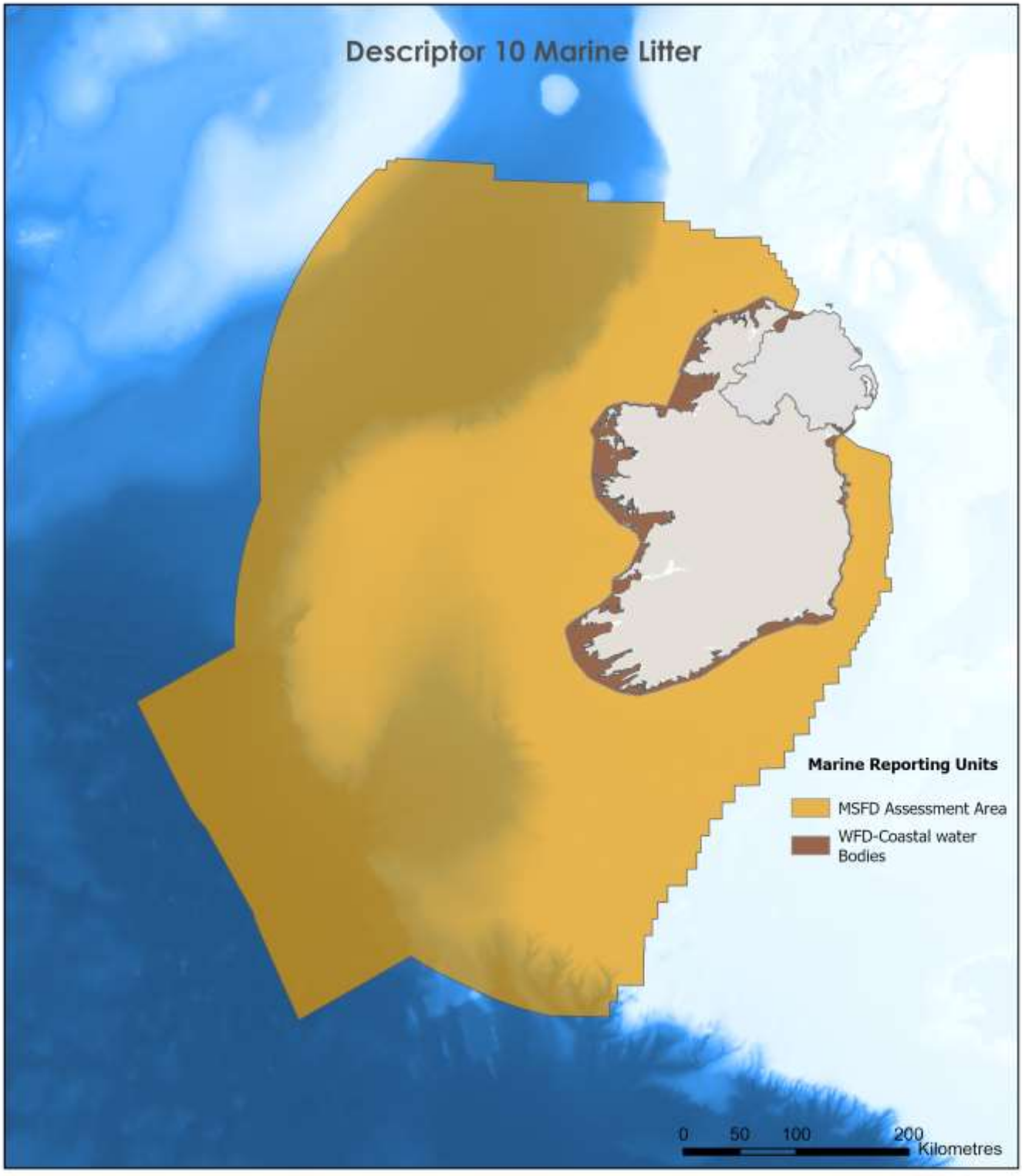
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



This map is to be used for reference only.

Area Name	Feature
WFD-Coastal water Bodies	Litter in the environment
MSFD Assessment Area	Litter in the environment

Water Depth
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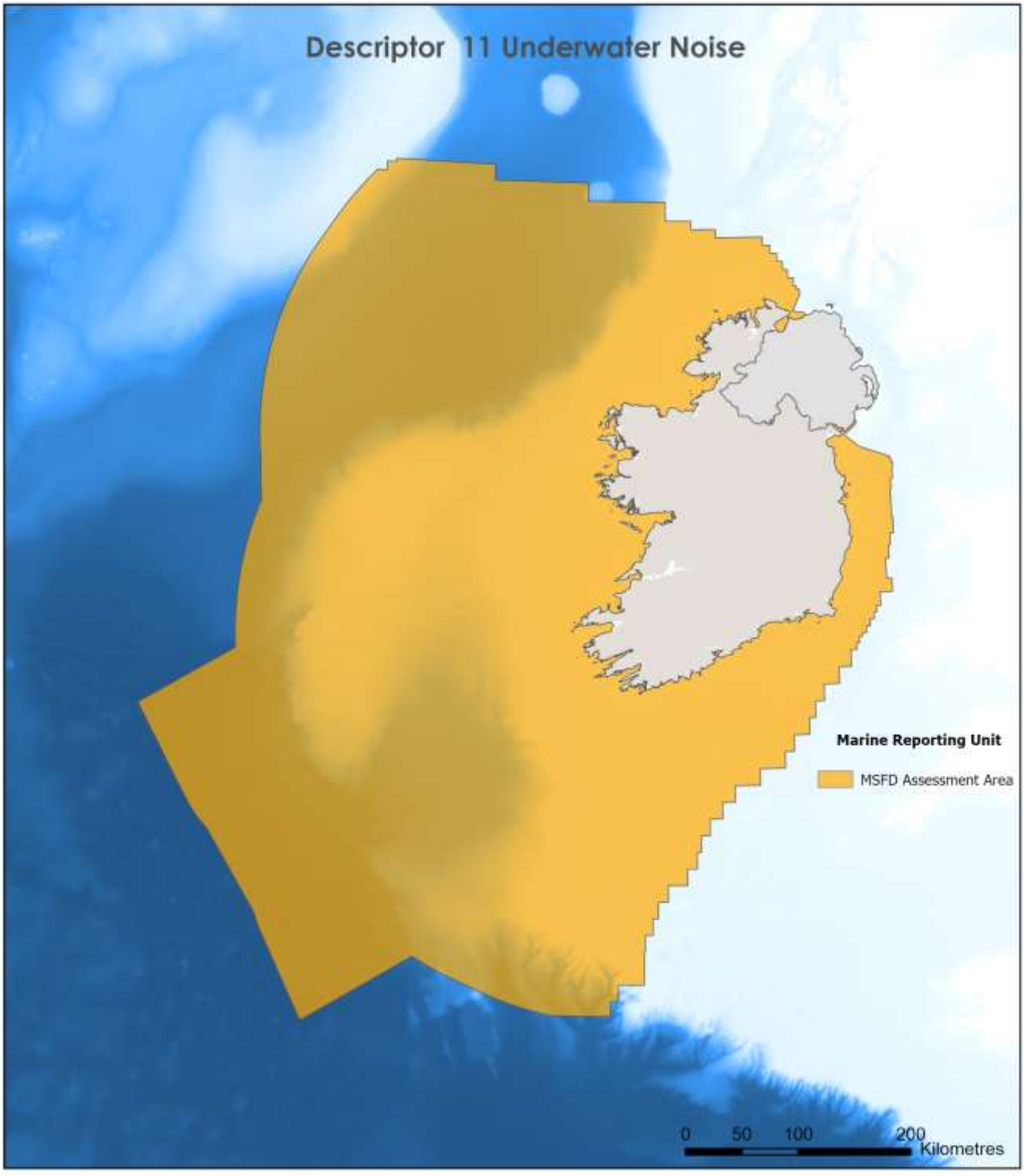
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).



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Area Name	Feature
MSFD Assessment Area	Impulsive sound in water
MSFD Assessment Area	Continuous low frequency sound

Water Depth
0
-5000

Credits: Marine Institute (2025).

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