An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Russia- they have consistently entered our waters under stealth, either by using non-military vessels, or their stealth subs. they are also circumventing sanctions using vessels registered in russia-friendly countries, switching of gps transmitters and regularly fish in EU and Irish Waters

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Lack of readiness, lack of naval personnel, lack of vessels, lack of funding and low salaries, lack of military adn defensive thinking within the navel service. i mean we dont even have a radar systema dn have to rely on the UK

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

North coast around to the south west coast going anti clockwise. the north east, east annd south east coasts are covered by UK and EU radar

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Vessels, personnel and radar- personnel highly trained in combat and vessels that are big enough to intercept and capture invading boats or boats that are suspiciously stopped over the cable areas- linked in with air support from an airforce for surveying reasons

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

NO- absolutely not
this is too important to squandar money to a company that is set up for profit- costs to the state would be much higher over a much longer period- initial costs to set up a state run stratedgy would be higher initially due to procurement of vessels and equipment but in the long term all public-private partnerships that the Irish state have entered into have cost the state both financially and reputationally. its been proven time and time again that public-private partnerships will not succeed with the initial intent as the private part is out for profit and the public part is out for security- we dont want another crisis like the houseing dcrisis if we end up needing a navel force.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

EU, UK, EEA, NATO to begin, the rest of the world needs to be assessed on individual merit- USA should be excluded until Trump is out of the white house, or at the least kept involved at arms length- as major risk is coming from Russia and Trump is a Russian stodge then it wont be beneficial for the USA to have intimate knowledge of the Irish Naval Force

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes a policy is useless with an action plan
procurement of appropriate maritime equipment
up to date radar
highly trained personnel in military and maritime tactics
establishment of 2 bases- sligo/donegal and kerry to cover the North, West and South of the county

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

We have hidden behind our neutrality and convinced ourselves that if we wave a white flag the aggressor will overlook us- we are now one of the richest countries within the EU, we have opened pourself up to treats by making our small country the big tech hub for american tech giants, this with our lack of a working military, lack of willingness from the goverment to spend in defensive areas including naval, airforce and army has meant we are particularly vulnerable should Russia want to hurt the EU digitally

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

The vulnerabilities are the heavy reliance on maritime interconnection systems for our telecommunications and power systems. To compound this vulnerability, our ability to protect these systems is very limited without increasing our maritime services or enhancing agreements with other countries for assistance in this area.
The threats are the vulnerability of these interconnections, be they telecommunications, gas or electricity, to interference or damage by foreign actors. In built resilience generally protects against accidental damage.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

I believe the biggest threats to our security is the weakness of the interconnection links and the lack of ability to monitor these. Specifically, it is noticeable that Russian activity is exploring these weaknesses.
Our biggest challenge would be to develop an effective national solution to this without EU support agreements in the medium term.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland's maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

The strategy needs to address the locations around critical infrastructure generally and in this context the scope to prioritise particular geographic areas is limited. If we can get support agreements with the EU and U.K. in particular we could then focus on the Western sea board.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland's maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

We need to address our ability to monitor surface and sub surface surveillance.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

In practice the role of the private sector is limited as its focus is on return in investment. Also the reality is that there is little that they can achieve given the open nature of infrastructure deployment. One area which could possibly be made a requirement is that private sector could operate a fast response repair service more efficiently than a general national response. In respect of public sector contracts for critical national infrastructure, this could be made as a requirement.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

This is essential as we will not be able to develop the necessary capabilities to deal with this nationally in the medium term.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

An appropriate action plan is an essential part of a security strategy.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Overfishing,threats to underwater infrastructure,security of wind farms,oil@gas platforms,great powers competition,submarines

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Naval service needs as many ships, on the water as possible,the naval service need military spec radar's,sonar @unarmed aerial systems and underwater vehicles. The naval service needs to share @ receive intelligence from other countries.the air corps maritime aircraft, need to able to drop sonar buoys ,into the sea.the threats we face are various as I outlined in Q1 ,our big challenge is the large amount of sea around us.we need maritime radar and joint command structure, with good surveillance/communications capabilities

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Areas where underwater infrastructure are located, we need a mix of ships on the water,maritime aircraft and drone systems; the large offshore patrol vessels should target the Atlantic@ the small vessels should concentrate on the east coast.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Ship radar,sonar,unarmed ship based aerial drones(camcopter,skeldar or Irish built a tech syn systems). Aircraft dropped sonar buoys. Costal radar; intelligence sharing. Base for our smaller naval vessels on the east coast; improved capabilities for our special forces maritime unit

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

the owners@ operators should have their own security systems ideally sharing information to the defence forces in a timely manner;cooperation between defence forces @ owner/operators is vital

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

All the above is important ,cooperation is key

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

An action plan is definitely needed,time is of the essence.The naval service @ air corps need as much modern equipment as possible;recruitment/retention of staff, coastal radar, improved equipment for the marine unit of the ranger wing,the naval service need the laws to back up their enforcement @operations.these improvements need to be as soon as possible ;prioritising Irish companies that produce maritime equipment @drone systems (e.g.a tech syn systems company in Clare). The threats to our maritime security are not going to go away anytime soon. The equipment we get for our defence forces comes too slowly:recruitment/retention of defence forces personnel is a priority.we need a full time minister of defence

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Maritime security because we are an island is so important, our economy can only be secured by good security and defence.we need to spend money on defence on multi annual basis. Our defence forces need a predictable line of financing. the defence forces need a modern command structure.we need a full time minister of defence

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Questions

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Irelands maritime area plays host to a variety of critical undersea infrastructure, including gas and electricity interconnectors, vital for ensuring the security of our energy systems, as well as transatlantic undersea telecommunications cables, which carry the majority of global internet and financial data.
Geopolitical instability globally is impacting the energy sector both directly, in terms of market pricing, and indirectly with these types of infrastructure increasingly seen as strategic assets and potential targets for sabotage, or for criminal or terrorist groups seeking to cause disruption.
Ireland has a vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), one of the largest in the EU, but today has very limited resources available to patrol it, leaving it particularly vulnerable in respect of monitoring and responding to uncontrolled movement of surface or subsurface vessels.
[redacted] is aware that in the recent past there have been instances of foreign vessels loitering in Irish waters, potentially mapping subsea assets, gathering intelligence that could be used for a future attack / disruption and this increased presence of foreign vessels and surveillance aircrafts requires greater intervention capabilities by Ireland.
The recent damage to the Nordstream and Baltic gas interconnectors in Europe highlights the potential for physical damage to critical undersea infrastructure, and the threat to Irelands subsea gas interconnectors is very much a realistic possibility. The estimated timeline to repair a gas interconnector following physical damage, accidental or malicious, is a minimum of 6 months. Irelands gas network today supplies more than 30% of Ireland's primary energy needs and over 40% of the country's electricity generation. In turn, approximately 80% of Ireland annual gas demand is supplied through two subsea interconnectors between Ireland and Scotland. Therefore, any disruption to gas supplies provided via the subsea interconnectors would have a significant impact on the Irish economy. A 2011 report from the Economic and Social Research Institute estimated the cost of losing just three months of gas-fired power at 80 billion euro or 50% of GDP and that losing gas for heating for three months would add another 8 billion euro on average.
Further to the threats relating to critical subsea infrastructure, Ireland has an import dependent economy for many of our raw materials. In the energy sector alone, almost 80% of all Irelands primary energy is imported today. Ensuring our ports, shipping routes and onshore assets, such as oil refineries are protected is extremely important.
A further threat worth highlighting is the potential for a cyber-attack resulting in loss of operability of critical infrastructure including subsea interconnectors and ports. Close cooperation with the National Cyber Security Centre on any potential attacks will be important to consider as part of any National Maritime Security Strategy.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

As outlined in response to question one, we consider critical undersea and maritime infrastructure being seen as potential targets for sabotage, or for criminal / terrorist groups seeking to cause disruption as a significant emerging threat.
Ireland plays a significant role as a transatlantic hub for global internet and financial data and is heavily dependent on imports for energy as well as various other needs. Any attack on critical subsea infrastructure, whether physical, cyber or through potential disruptions to movement of marine traffic carrying critical supplies, has the potential to cause significant disruption and economic impacts for Ireland.
To prepare for this increased threat, it's imperative that Ireland enhances its defence capabilities through a multitude of measures , including a) investing in additional maritime surveillance vessels capable of monitoring subsea threats; b) ensuring a robust naval presence to deter or respond to potential incursions, either directly or through partnering with other nations, c) effective inter-agency coordination between defence, intelligence, and civilian maritime authorities, both nationally and internationally; and d) enhancing our cyber security capabilities in line with Irelands National Cyber Security Strategy which explicitly calls out the need to protect critical national infrastructure by increasing its resilience to cyber-attack and ensuring that operators have appropriate incident response plans in place.
In addition to enhancing security, it is important that Ireland takes a holistic approach to assessing the risk of disruption to its critical infrastructure and looks at ways to reduce the impact where possible. In addition to mitigating the potential risks, impact mitigation should also be considered. For example, to mitigate the impact of potential gas supply disruption, the Government's Energy Security Package (2023) outlined measures to enhance the security of Ireland's gas supply. These measures included a proposal to examine the development of a strategic gas emergency reserve. [redacted] was appointed by Government to assess the potential options. Subsequently, on the 4th March 2025, the Government provided approval to proceed with the development of a State-led strategic gas emergency reserve (SGER) in the form of a Floating Storage and Regassification Unit . [redacted] is now working to progress the delivery of this project. Projects such as these are critical to mitigating risk, and ultimately ensuring Irelands energy and economic security and, as such, their timely delivery should be seen as a key component of government policy in the wider context of national maritime security. In relation to the SGER project, it is important to note that whilst this will diversify supply routes, it is also dependent on importing liquefied natural gas and, as such, ensuring security along the critical supply routes and related port infrastructure for this will be important.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland's maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, whilst the strategy needs to consider all aspects and geographic areas, specific focus should be given to areas in proximity to critical infrastructure such as undersea cables, pipelines, ports and critical supply routes where there are heightened risks due to the potential for sabotage or interference causing societal or economic harm. It may be appropriate to establish temporary or permanent legal boundaries around such critical offshore infrastructure, to deter unauthorised activity, as well as providing heightened monitoring of activities including subsea activities in proximity to critical infrastructure.
Close cooperation with the Department of Climate, Environment and Energy and the relevant agencies in respect of future plans for development of Offshore Renewable Energy in Ireland will also be important to ensure that the Maritime Security strategy considers geographic areas where this energy is to be developed as set out in Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs) as areas where heightened security measures may be required.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland's maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

To best safeguard Irelands maritime interests, [redacted] suggest a variety of investments and approaches may be required across a broad range of areas including:

- Investment in additional maritime patrol vessels and subsea surveying equipment, sonar arrays, seismic and sonic detection to ensure better monitoring of sea and subsea activities;
- The establishment of exclusion areas around critical sea and subsea infrastructure such as telecommunication and electricity cables, offshore renewable energy infrastructure and gas interconnectors.
- Enhanced security at ports and along key strategic shipping routes;
- Investment in vessels to provide a physical presence and active deterrence as required as well as investing in the navy personnel to operate them;
- Establishment of integrated response procedures between the security services and the operators of critical undersea infrastructure, with scheduling and execution of emergency preparedness exercises to stress test these procedures and ensure they are understood by all parties and fit for purpose;
- Enhanced local stakeholder engagement, particularly within coastal communities and fishing populations, through targeted media, outreach, and awareness campaigns, to support the defence forces by informing them on suspicious activities they may encounter; and
- Working closely with the National Cyber Security Centre to ensure our critical Maritime infrastructure is operated to the highest cyber security standards, to mitigate the potential for cyber-attack.

In addition to these measures, Ireland can also help to better protect itself from the impacts of potential attacks on critical maritime infrastructure by assessing the resilience of its import and supply routes and investing in greater redundancy and diversification of supply routes. The proposed Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve, currently being progressed by [redacted] on behalf of the State is an example of this. These types of projects should be identified as high priority strategic projects for Ireland and expedited for delivery through the relevant consenting processes as quickly as possible in the national interest.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Whilst this question relates to the private sector, the response provided is in respect of all owners and operators of strategic maritime infrastructure, including [redacted] as a commercial semi-state organisation, 100% owned by the Irish state.

We believe that all owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure can play an important role in supporting Irelands National Maritime Security. Owner / Operators will have a deep understanding of the technical capabilities of their asset, the potential risks and vulnerabilities, as well as the impacts that could occur should a risk materialise. In addition, it is in their interest to ensure the safety and security of their assets. Close cooperation between these entities and the Defence forces, under the leadership of the Department of Defense and Ireland's maritime agencies, will be key to underpinning Irelands maritime security into the future. Owner / Operators can in particular play a key role through:

- communities of practice, undertaking and supporting joint emergency planning exercises, assist with the development of "wargaming" scenarios to stress test security, and identifying potential support channels from externals parties such as NATO or the Royal Navy;
- helping to provide strategic input in the development of policies, standards and protocols which are relevant to their own fields of expertise; and
- making proportional investments where appropriate to enhance security in proximity to their assets (for example cyber security upgrades or investments in detection technologies).

[redacted] is the designated National Gas Emergency Manager (NGEM) for Ireland, responsible for implementing the National Gas Emergency Plan (NGEP). A primary function of the NGEP is to coordinate actions to prevent a natural gas emergency developing, or, where one cannot be prevented, to take timely decisions in order to ensure the safe operation of the natural gas network and to minimise the impact on customers. Incidents such as physical damages to undersea pipelines or large scale cyber-attacks would fall within the remit of the NGEM, and hence the need to ensure close cooperation between the Department of Defense, Ireland's maritime agencies and the NGEM on matters such as these.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

International cooperation will be vital to delivering on Irelands Maritime security ambitions as maritime activities are typically global in nature.

In the context of energy, natural gas currently supplies more than 30% of Ireland's primary energy needs, while approximately 80% of our natural gas is imported through two subsea interconnectors via Great Britain. Approximately 70% of Gas Networks Ireland's subsea interconnector system lies in United Kingdom territorial waters. These points highlight the key strategic importance of the relationship between Ireland and the United Kingdom, from an energy perspective alone, and therefore [redacted] propose the relationship with the United Kingdom in particular should be a key focus for ongoing cooperation.

Ireland is also part of the European Union. In respect to energy, this means Ireland is part of a wider integrated European gas market and governed by a common set of regulatory market rules. Ensuring close alignment and coherence between Irelands National Strategy and the EU maritime security strategy should be a key consideration during the drafting of the strategy. Close cooperation amongst EU Member States on defence and security matters, will be an important enabler and should be a strong focus for any increased international cooperation.

More generally, the creation of international fora, voluntary bodies and public private cooperation's to promote best practice and knowledge sharing between owner / operators of assets has proven to be an effective way of driving enhancements in wider energy security, regulatory and market matters for [redacted]. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in and support any such bodies which are establish in relation to protecting critical infrastructure.

It will be important given the integrated nature of maritime activities and trade, to ensure that emergency procedures, protocols and training exercises are developed and carried out regularly with relevant international partners to ensure security is strong across entire supply chains, with cooperation agreements being established with other countries to formalise any security arrangements necessary to protect critical infrastructure or activities.

In 2024, [redacted] and the Irish government participated in a NATO exercise on defence preparedness in respect of critical infrastructure. These types of engagements help to enhance international cooperation, share knowledge and build capabilities in our security through the sharing of international best practice with our EU and NATO connections.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

The National Maritime Security Strategy would benefit from being accompanied by an Action Plan. It will be important that any action plan developed has clear timebound objectives, with robust governance arrangements in place to ensure its timely delivery. The action plan should also be clear on the steps needed and KPIs to deliver on each objective, and it will be important that sufficient resourcing, both capital and people, is available to ensure its successful delivery. Any action plan developed should be coherent with other government policies of relevance such as the Energy Security Package.

[redacted] believe that the action plan should set out specific measures which will ensure the integrity of critical national infrastructure and promote the expedited delivery of critical projects of strategic national interest such as the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

The creation of fora, voluntary bodies and public private cooperation's to promote best practice and knowledge sharing between owner / operators of assets has proven to be an effective way of driving enhancements in wider energy security, regulatory and market matters for [redacted] as a business to date and we would welcome the opportunity to engage in and support any such bodies established to protecting critical infrastructure.

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Our under preparedness as regards our Marine and aerial defence. The lack of funding to improve our capabilities as quickly as I feel it is now necessary.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

That we are surrounded by water! Water which is becoming more and more polluted with microplastics etc, over dredging, lack of legislation to protect sea grass beds, over fishing and due to limited marine defence, the lack of ability to detect underwater threats,the threat of not knowing when those threats are near.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

I don't really know enough to comment but I think probably the West Coast , northwest and northern coastline.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Legislation to give seagrass beds protected status. Adequate monitoring of the coastline with punishment of those polluting rivers entering the sea and the coastline itself. There is too little investment in personnel and training to implement any measures effectively. We need undersea abilities to monitor threats, and sufficient protection out at sea patrolling the coastline.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Absolutely. The funding they are required to provide should be directly proportional to the money they make. Like a maritime tax.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes. We are part of the eu and the UK are pur neighbours so yes absolutely cooperation is key. Our main security threats certainly at this point in history are not our neighbours in my opinion

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

I think it should be totally transparent. Specific and penalties for failing to achieve targets in a given time. This needs to be done yesterday.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Unfortunately I believe we are as much of a threat to our waters as other countries marine defence because we are , albeit in a less dramatic fashion, slowly but surely, warming our oceans, changing our climates, killing our wildlife, destroying a natural resource that is a huge earner tourism wise. I love being an islander, I love knowing I am never far from the sea, I love that Ireland is fairly neutral but I am so disappointed at the lack of progress in funding, the lack of political intent,we have regarding our marine technology strategy and protection .

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

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3000 character(s) maximum

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

At present, Ireland is heavily reliant on imported energy to power homes and businesses across the country. Although developments in domestic renewable energy continue apace and will go some way to redressing the balance between imported and domestic energy sources, the fact remains that Ireland needs imported energy and will continue to do so for some time to come.

Much of this energy reaches this country via the maritime environment, by sea or through interconnectors, themselves a form of subsea infrastructure. According to Gas Networks Ireland, for example, the country imported 77% of its natural gas via the two gas interconnectors with Scotland in 2023 (https://www.gasnetworks.ie/sites/default/files/docs/corporate/company/Gas-Network-Report-2023.pdf). This dependency is projected to increase as the current supply from the Corrib gas field declines over the coming decade.

Ireland's total energy requirement continues to be fulfilled by imported energy sources to a large extent, which represents perhaps the most significant vulnerability in terms of maritime security at present. In parallel to developments in renewable energy production domestically, it is vital that energy security is prioritised in planning for Ireland's maritime security.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

As Ireland's offshore renewable energy sector develops in line with plans set out in Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy, it is vital that maritime security is scaled up in order to protect the new assets as they develop. With Phase One offshore renewable energy projects underway, as well as plans for further developments under the South Coast DMAP and the National DMAP, it is critical that work is undertaken in tandem with these developments to ensure all critical energy assets are afforded sufficient protection as they develop. Such protections are vital for security of energy of supply and to mitigate the threat of disruption from breaks in supply.

Ireland's maritime space also hosts a large number of undersea data cables and other infrastructure vital to support the digital economy. While such infrastructure is already critical to many sectors of the global economy, the increased use of AI and other emerging technologies will serve to further increase our reliance on this infrastructure. Safeguarding this infrastructure is therefore critical and strengthening naval resources and presence should be prioritised in this regard.

Cork Chamber recently conducted an Economic Trends survey among Chamber members, gathering insights into key priorities for the business community ahead of Budget 2026. Threats to critical assets and infrastructure were found to be the most important emerging threat that Budget 2026 should seek to address (https://www.corkchamber.ie/quarterly-economic-trends/). It is clear that members of the business community operating across a wide range of sectors are increasingly concerned about the protection of our critical infrastructure, including maritime, against the current backdrop of heightened geopolitical concerns.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland's maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

In considering specific geographical areas in Ireland's maritime domain to be prioritised by the strategy, it is important to analyse the locations of critical infrastructure. Energy infrastructure, such as gas interconnectors for example, should be a key priority in terms of the strategy's protections.

In addition, the proposed locations of offshore wind energy developments should also be a priority. The sites identified in the South Coast DMAP should be prioritised in this regard, particularly Tonn Nua, the first site set to be developed. Areas of the south coast off the counties of Cork and Waterford have a particularly important role in ensuring security of energy supply, with other infrastructural projects such as the Celtic Interconnector also located here.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland's maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Investments in enhanced resources for all state agencies involved in the protection of maritime assets and areas should be prioritised. It is critical that the defence forces, An Garda Síochána, the Irish Coast Guard, Revenue and other relevant agencies have the staff and equipment required to safeguard Ireland's maritime security effectively. Investments in new technologies to assist with monitoring efficiencies should also be prioritised.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Private sector owners and operators of critical maritime infrastructure could play a role in assisting with the implementation of the strategy and ongoing monitoring of threats and other issues. The strategy should consider the establishment of an advisory group comprised of private sector actors with an interest in maritime security who can advise on issues and provide updates regarding security threats and risks. Encouraging private investment into sectors like offshore renewables is critical and protections for maritime assets can help instil investor confidence.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring

countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

International cooperation plays an important role in the development and implementation of any maritime security strategy, particularly in Ireland given the country's strategic location in the North Atlantic, at the western edge of Europe and close to the UK.

Cooperation with neighbouring countries is vital, particularly those with which Ireland shares maritime infrastructure, such as interconnectors. The UK and France are both critical partners in this regard. In terms of UK cooperation, consideration should be given to shared energy interests, building on the commitments to further cooperation in the area of maritime security in the recent UK-Ireland 2030 Joint Statement.

With regard to future energy import and export, relations with EU partners will be increasingly important and it is critical that Ireland continues to engage with other member states through the various groupings and initiatives in place at EU level, such as the Atlantic Strategy.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

The National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan detailing its implementation in order to ensure all stakeholders are kept informed of progress and can plan accordingly, particularly those operating in the private sector involved in developing and managing critical assets. The action plan should set out clear objectives and timelines, which should be aligned with the planned timelines for developments in other sectors in national policy, such as offshore renewable energy plans, for example.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

Contact

Contact Form

Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

The Russia navy and it's shadow fleet but also think the British navy can be a threat if the wrong government is in power in the UK

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

The Russian Navy and we must create a proper intelligence agency and increase the size of our air force and navy to counter them

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

All of our territory must be protected, we must build up the capacity to protect all of our sea

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

An intelligence agency and stuff around maritime security, like radar and sonar as well as small ship building

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes we must partner with industry such as small rapid ship builders

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

I think we need to use our position within the EU to help boost our security and defence but also use NATO if possible, however that does not mean we can always rely on them all the time

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

The establishment of an intelligence agency and the increase in our Naval and airforce capabilities

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

Contact

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

I believe the most significant threats to Ireland maritime security are it's lack of capabilities and investment into the area.

We are an island nation geographical placed at the Atlantic entrance to the Eurasian continent, the 'first line of defence' to Europe in the North Atlantic. While others further south & north of us have capabilities in line with their responsibilities as Atlantic boarder nations (Sonar, submarines, frigates) we have been docile in our approach to this role.

Further underinvestment in this area will lead to Ireland becoming a weak link in the chain of nations on the Atlantic coast and leave us exposed to actions carried out by bad faith state actors looking to exploit our lack of ability to rebuff direct & indirect aggressive action (i.e severing of undersea cables, sabotaging maritime infrastructure).

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

The biggest emerging threat to Irelands maritime security is the growing prevalence of under sea cable cutting. We are the closest landmass in Europe to North America so naturally we are the landing point of many undersea cables that carry massive amounts of data between the two continents. Should large scale warfare between nations break out in the European continent (or even the Pacific) the targeting of data delivery infrastructure will be among the top priorities for nation states - first the stabilities then the ground based delivery methods.

We can not expect allies, who will likely be engaged in direct confrontations in other parts of the globe, to care for & maintain the security of our own waters. War brings on the reshuffling of priorities & undoubtedly the 'neutral' and often uninterested in it's own defence, island of Ireland, will be moved far down the priority list of our allies. If we showed time & time again we weren't interested in defending ourselves why on earth would we expect them to do it for us once the chips are down.

How do we best prepare is to be left up to generals & those that know more. In my opinion the minimum we can do is invest, buy second hand and buy proven, there is no need for state of the art there is just a need for something - anything. When we can prove we can see our own skies, understand what is under our own oceans & show that in both cases have the capabilities to do something about it we are far more likely to be seen as nation worthy of the neutral title than a rock in the Atlantic that has become another stone in the shoe of our allies.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Initially yes, the Atlantic is by far the more important region. There is a necessity for the UK to care for the Irish Sea, France has the abilities and willingness to cover Biscay & the channel but our Western waters are effectively left unguarded.

Redeployments of US nuclear capable submarines is a matter of when not if, especially in the case of a hot war in the pacific. The Royal Navy has only so many surface and sub surface ships it can muster to the area considering it's exposed Eastern Coast line. If we can provide the initial capability of being able to patrol and sonar the undersea area it removes the reliance on other nations to protect 7,000 Km's of Irish coast from the most basic of threats.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Sonar
Radar
Maritime Aircraft

That's it. We do not need submarines, destroyers or aircraft carriers. Sensors provide the information and data that is needed for those with the ships to do their job.

Ships capable of actually blue water operations would be nice but that goes beyond just tonnage it requires manpower which is not possible if the Irish Navy is going to be isolated to just the Cork Harbour.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

There should be a private sector presence but by no means a reliance. If it does require the private sector they have to be Irish Owned Companies using technology developed in EU/US or friendly/aligned nations.

Cheap private sector contracts with companies using Huawei technology is effectively asking to be duped & becoming a burden to Europes national security.

Expert ship builders from Italy, French radar manufacturers - options in Europe are ample and happily sold to us.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes.

They have the expertise we need and would be more than happy to provide.

PESCO is an organisation we have to leverage to our favour. The nations within it look at Ireland as if it's a burden - we need to show a willingness to evolve and prove that we can stand alongside them, if not as nation with fighting capability at least as a nation willing to help when others are doing the fighting.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Stupid question - effectively asking should the maritime security strategy sit in white paper limbo for 30 years till it's too late or should we actually say and show how we are going to do something about it?

Key Elements

Timelines: When can we expect to order, how long does it take, when we expect to receive. Contingencies for delays and penalties agreed with partners for under delivery or delays. This isn't a children's hospital that can just be pushed out and funded to extremes. If the state is being led on we need to be able to cut ties and go elsewhere.

Funding: how are we going to afford this, where is the money coming from, what suffers so this can flourish.

Sourcing: Who are we speaking to about working together, interested parties, their capabilities. What nations are willing to sell what we need - again we don't need new state of the art, we need stuff that will do the job.

Crewing: We can have all the radars, sonars, boats, planes, trains and automobiles but if there are no arses in seats then it's for nothing. How do we expect to hire, train and pay the talent needed for this. Where are we training them, how long will this take.

Most important: It needs to be realistic. Imaginary deadlines and wishful thinking procurement will leave us looking like Australia with AUKUS - out of pocket and submarines. Be deliberate, honest and more than anything realistic. We as a nation know this isn't going to be cheap or quick so don't lie to our face about it - we know it's necessary whether we like it or not and it's our duty to take on the burden required to achieve it.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Focus on maritime and air please. For the love of god we don't need and can never have a formidable land army - any nation that threatens us is not rolling across the ocean on tanks, their getting here in a plane or a boat. If we show we can deter (or in the worst case shoot down) the planes and ships then we have everything we need.

Also I mentioned it earlier, navy harbours outside Cork would be nice. It's a barrier to recruitment when you have to move your life to Munster to join the Navy. We're an Island you can berth ships in Waterford, Dublin, Galway don't expect everyone to be willing to go to Cork for it.

Contact

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

One of the biggest threats right now is people sneaking things like drugs or weapons into the country using boats or ships. Ireland has a big coastline, and it's hard to watch every part of it all the time. Another problem could be illegal fishing, where people from other places take our fish without permission, which could hurt the environment and jobs. Also, there's always the risk of cyber attacks on important things like ports or systems that help ships talk to each other. If someone hacked into them, it could cause serious problems. And we don't have a lot of patrol ships or planes to keep watch, so that makes it easier for smuggling illegal items into the country to happen without anyone knowing.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

In the future, there might be more trouble with climate change causing storms or rising sea levels, which could damage ports and ships. Also, technology is getting better, so people might try to use underwater drones to spy or attack things secretly. We could also see more cyber attacks from other countries trying to mess with our systems. To prepare, we need better radar, more patrol boats, and maybe even a few fighter jets or a plane like a Beechcraft King Air 350ER ISR to watch the skies over the sea. Training people and working with other countries would help too, so we're not alone in case something big happens.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, some places are more important than others, so we should focus on them. For example, near busy ports like Dublin, Cork, or Shannon, and also areas with a lot of fishing or energy stuff like wind farms. The west coast is long and kind of remote, so it’s easier for someone to sneak around there. We can’t watch every part all the time, but we can keep a closer eye on the places that matter most or are easier targets.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Ireland should invest in more patrol ships, drones, and radar systems to keep an eye on the sea. We also need strong computers and cyber protection for ports and boats. Maybe even a few fighter jets could help respond to threats fast from the air. Building better ports and making sure we have strong communication between ships, the navy, and coast guards is super important too. These things would help us be ready and act quickly if something bad happens.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, the private sector should be involved because they own a lot of the ports and ships. They can help report anything suspicious and keep their systems safe from hackers. If they work together with the government and navy, everything will be more secure. They could even help pay for upgrades or training, since they also want to keep their stuff safe. It’s like teamwork—everyone has to do their part.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, working with other countries is really important. Ireland is small, but we're part of the EU and close to the UK, so we should team up with them to share information and protect each other. Being part of programs with NATO and other groups would give us more support and training. If there's a big problem, it's good to know we're not alone and have friends who can help us or warn us early. The sea doesn't have borders, so working together just makes sense.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, there should be an Action Plan. A strategy is great, but without a plan, it's just words. The plan should include what new stuff we're buying (like boats, radars, or maybe some jets), who's in charge of what, and how we'll train people. It should also say how we'll work with other countries and what to do if something bad happens. Maybe they could have yearly checks to see if things are working. It's like a to-do list that keeps everyone focused.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

One small thing I'd suggest is looking into getting some fighter jets, fighter jets aren't just about dog fights with Russia and China, they're about protecting our skies, people and defending critical infrastructure. Investing more into our aircraft's such as the Jas 39 Grippen would be a major step for us. Even just a few could help protect the sky and sea, especially when there's a threat. Ireland doesn't have any right now, and it feels like we're missing something important. Also, more education about maritime security in schools could help kids like me (12 yo) understand why it matters. Maybe we'd even want to work in it someday! In general, keeping our sea safe is really important for food, jobs, and safety. So we should take it seriously but also not make it scary, just smart.

Contact

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

The "might is right" mentality adopted by the USA has a rippling effect to other large world powers. This may mean our own security is under threat in our surrounding waters, especially as a weaker back door to UK and the rest of Europe.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Russian interest in our waters and communication systems.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

I don't have specific knowledge on this but would hope that our naval and maritime services experts would guide us on whether certain geographical areas or otherwise

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

No specific opinion, but feel that we should be guided by experienced personel within our maritime services, international best practice, and look to other countries in a similar size/position to us that we could find ways together to support what is needed.
We should look at pilot programmes where we are unsure of the returns, rent systems to see what works before committing to any one system.
We need to be mindful of the public purse while investing to avoid scandals of misspent money and not questionning budgets and agreed timelines.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes.
Initially consulting with private sector to see what role they can play.
Also employing private sector people in our public maritime service for set terms as needed.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

international co-operation is needed with US, UK and Europe without selling out on our own principals of neutrality. There will have to be some practical compromise but the Irish public will need to know what that is and the potential consequences of that decision.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Absolutely. There is no point having a startegy without actions.
Key elements should include decisions on our maritime strategy and steps and timelines needed.
At this point there's no clarity on what that strategy could be

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

Contact

Contact Form

Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland’s maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Covert attacks by Russian and Chinese shadow fleet on undersea cables are the most significant threat.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland’s maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Shadow fleet sabotage on undersea cables and energy infrastructure is the biggest threat. International shipping harassment in Irish waters is also a possibility, however not a priority. Ireland has no other significant maritime targets that would be worth attacking.

I see significant challenges with combating the shadow fleet vessels. I would prepare for this in multiple ways:
- Legal framework for prevention and rapid action. Ireland is a neutral country, however needs to have firm and straight forward plan to both prevent bad actors from inspecting and attacking the cables, and also when an attack is suspected to have firm response. There can be no guesswork or doubt on what happens depending on the scenario.
- Surveillance of shadow fleet. Shadow fleet vessels are generally known through allies shared intelligence. It is Ireland's responsibility to track these vessels in Irish waters. Ireland should be able to monitor these vessels by air and sea.
- Define 'no go' zones. Ireland should have restricted zones near vital infrastructure that vessels must request to move through. Even better if these vessels were then escorted in some way.
- Long range capabilities. Ireland's EEZ is a massive area. Ireland should purchase long range attack munitions (missiles/ air drones/sea drones) to demonstrate capability of defending itself from attacks on maritime infrastructure. If Ireland has no ability to defend against these attacks, then there is no real deterrence and all previous points are moot. Ireland needs to demonstrate that it can sink hostile vessels in the event of Ireland being under attack.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

1st priority - Under sea cables of both data and energy. These are the most vulnerable and important as attacking these would affect many countries not just Ireland.
2nd priority - Undersea pipelines.
3rd priority - major shipping lanes (not high priority, could be omitted).

All other concerns are not high priority, and Ireland will never have the resources to protect it's entire coastline or even major ports. At the same time, I can not see anyone bothering to attack any of Ireland's land based maritime infrastructure, as the cables and pipelines are much higher value and more easily attacked targets.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

In descending order of priority of weapon systems
1. Long range sonar
2. Air drone technology
3. Sea drone technology
4. Long range missile capabilities against above water targets.
5. Ability to attack under water targets (ability to attack small submarines)

Also, more cooperation with western naval powers (UK and US primarily) would be very effective. In the event of Ireland being under threat we should have pre arranged agreements with western naval powers to aid in defense.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Private sector should be able to report suspicious activity to the Irish Navy. If private sector can provide some level of vessel tracking as well this should be incorporated.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes I think that to bring Ireland's capabilities to a high enough level will take many years. I see threats to Irelands maritime infrastructure happening before Ireland has much capability to detect/defend.

Ireland should put more focus on the short term in getting help from allies.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

A high level action plan should be published. However specific details should be kept confidential, to avoid revealing detailed plans to bad actors.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Ireland should increase the amount of money spent on defense in general by a significant amount. Ireland has a large responsibility on defending europes coast line. Currently I would say that Ireland has near 0% defense. Just because Ireland is neutral does not mean it will not be targeted. To attack Ireland's undersea infrastructure currently would be laughably easy, and very effective in hurting many nations in europe and the west in general.

Not mentioned by me so far is defense against air threats also. I think Ireland should have air defense capabilities in the form of air to air missile and radar technology.

Ireland is a small population nation with a large area in total, so complete defense is never going to be realistic. However I believe that with significant budget increase that Ireland should improve deterrence to potential threats and not be a complete walk over.

Contact

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland’s maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

RUSSIA, RUSSIA, AND MORE RUSSIA.

We're an outward looking nation with data cables connecting half the world's internet yet we can't send three boats to sea. Its beyond farsical how badly funding our Defence Forces are. I'm beyond depressed thinking of how vulnerable our country is against attack from foreign hostiles.

[redacted], a small nation like Ireland, but a fortress of security that is more than able to defend itself. This is highly achievable but we need to cut the 5% YoY increases and start building capability NOW.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland’s maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

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Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

Contact

Contact Form

Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Ireland does not have sufficient ability to monitor or protect our seas from hostile nations. For example, the recent Russian activity either through its official Navy or ghost fleet in Irish waters could not be countered or fully monitored.
The undersea cables than run through Irish controlled water are vulnerable to sabotage. Electrical, oil and gas pipelines are also vulnerable to damage.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

If the current conflicts in Ukraine or the middle east were to escalate and directly involve European countries, Ireland would be at risk as one of the weaker European nations militarily. Irish infrastructure and airports could be targeted, as they lack any means of defense, as a way to disrupt European and NATO activities.
Ireland should invest in:
-primary radar
-naval sonar
-advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare vessels
-long-range land-based anti-ship weaponry
-long-range land based surface to air missiles
-establishment of an Irish air force equipped with modern jet interceptors capable of anti-air and anti-ship missions
-investment in methods to protect and counter cyber warfare

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland's maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Protection of under-sea infrastructure such as the west coast Atlantic area and gas/oil and electrical pipelines from Ireland to UK and Europe.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland's maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Ireland should invest in:
-primary radar
-naval sonar
-advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare vessels
-long-range land-based anti-ship weaponry
-long-range land-based surface to air missiles
-establishment of an Irish air force equipped with modern jet interceptors capable of anti-air and anti-ship missions
-investment in methods to protect and counter cyber warfare

Ireland should decrease our reliance on energy and resources from other countries and focus on local production of energy and manufacturing.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

The private sector could be used to rapidly increase our logistic and security capabilities while national infrastructure is being established e.g. Private companies could be used to build, supply and train air force equipment and pilots in the short term while our own pilots and equipment are being readied.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

This increased cooperation should include a focus on our partners in the EU and the UK as part of European and global defense. Mutual defense and co-operation would be beneficial to all parties and increase security in the area. Ireland should, however, not be reliant on the help or support from European nations and should be able to defend itself independently.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

The National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that details how the strategy will be implemented. The key elements of this Action Plan should be laid out similarly to the Report of the Commission on the Defence Forces
-A detail of current capabilities of Ireland to defend its maritime areas
-A detail of the necessary future upgrades to Irish maritime defense
-The projected cost of these upgrades
-The projected timelines needed to purchase and put in to use the upgrades
-The estimated potential cost of not upgrading our maritime security capabilities

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

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An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

Contact

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Patrolling capabilities over our entire island and the seas that surround us are of grave concern. I know that the naval fleet is not currently patrolling at full compliment and there may be issues with the ages of the current seas faring vessels and boats. Drug, arms and criminal activities all use the seas to gain access to our land and this is a huge threat for the future of this island and its peoples. As an island nation we should have the best of equipment and staff to patrol our seas 24 - 7 and the navy should have every power it needs in order to carry out is work as effectively as possible.

I would also have concerns about Russian boats and submarines entering our waters or coming near to our waters.

Our fishermen and their boats should also be protected and the fishing or overfishing in our seas by EU vessels should be monitored and strictly enforced. We need to protect our maritime regions and not sell off our wonderful assets. Our coasts need to be protected from pollution as well as our marine life, sea birds and all animals.

We need to do things better and put our coastal seas and maritime security at the top of our agenda.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Drug trade, criminal activity, EU taking over our waters, overfishing, Russian ships in our waters, pollutions.

We need to enhance our fleet, improve our security, enforce the law of our land or change the laws in order to do everything to deter anyone abusing our seas etc.

We need the best ships, technology, people and laws to halt the rise in threats.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

I am not expert enough on where you need to focus but employ the best people who can advise where this should be.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Bigger and better naval fleet. Land and sea support stations all around our coasts. The best air support . IT infrastructure at the top of its game. Satellite and drone imagery should be used to patrol our seas...

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

I would not rule anyone out or in. You need to get the best for the job regardless of private or public sector. Sometimes the expertise is not held within the public sector but there is nothing wrong with training up within the public sector and headhunting the best people and technology for the job. This is such a typical government question and I am not sure if anyone in our current government has the expertise or intellectual capabilities to move forward with the issues that this question can raise. Just get on and do the job.
Take ownership of your responsibilities to the Irish people and get the job done.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

We need to get our own strategy in order and ship shape before we start to depend on others to get us out of a hole. We need to stand on our own two feet. I have no issue with cooperation from EU but only in so far as Ireland takes the lead at all times and knows when to deal with the EU if anything its suggests infringes on our National Maritime Security Strategy. Not sure about NATO - but then again we probably don't have a choice if NATO offers any help.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Of course we need an action plan. The plan would get us from where we are now to where we need to be. I cannot believe you are actually asking that as a question in the survey - I would have thought that an action plan would be an intricate part of the governments strategy to sort these issues out.

Key part:

Where are we now - what are we lacking, what to we want and how do we go about getting what we need to have the best National Maritime Security strategy.

Consider our countries strategies to see if they would suit us. We don't need to reinvent the wheel if we don't need to.

Once completed you need to publish and advertise what has been achieved and raise the profile globally.

"Ireland is a country you don't want to mess with and it protects its boarders to the death".

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Just because we are an small island, we need to think of ourselves as the first line of defense for Ireland, the EU and the rest of the world. Primarily we need to protect Ireland our Irish waters and coasts and all living things in and on our island and in and about the sea, land and air that surround our coasts. This must be given priority and capable of adapting to future threats as and when (or before) they arise. It needs to be a dynamic plan - constantly evolving and steadfast it its mission.

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Lack of adequate means to patrol and protect Irish maritime interests.
Deliberate damage to fibre cables
Drug cartels using Irish waters to transport drugs

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

It needs to be a full Irish territorial waters strategy.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Radar,
Rapid deployment boats, aircraft to intercept threats.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

No
It should be a duty of an enhanced Irish Naval Swrvice

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

It could tie into a European wide mesh type security strategy

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes.

Detection,
Response levels,
Resources,
Training
Response reviews
Interaction with Europe partners

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Consideration of using satellite surveillance of maritime activities in partnership with European and American partners.

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Russia..

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Again Russia is the biggest threat. We need massive investment in the naval service so that we are not relying solely on the Royal Navy to provide cover both at sea and in the sky. We need long range aircraft and we need to install proper radar systems.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

If we must prioritize then we must cover the area where there are undersea cables. 8

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

As in Q2 above. Investment and recruitment for the navy.
Radar. Long range aircraft. These are a must. No priorities as they are all part of the same package.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Very little. This is primarily a military function.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

International cooperation is vital. However we cannot sit back and expect others to do it for us.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Action plans are good but unless they are executed within a shout period of time, they end up on a shelf with many other reports and strategies. The key elements should be to secure and ringfence funding. Avoid large committees and talking shops while at the same time keeping a good oversight on the project to avoid overruns etc.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

We are living in very volatile times and this requires immediate attention and not just talking about it and developing yet another report

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

1) Critical infrastructure attack which damages sovereignty brand globally
2) Critical infrastructure attack which limits national ability to defend its borders
3) Vulnerabilities at sea and air

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Communications & energy blackout in sovereign and EEZ zone

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Maritime EEZ then Sovereign

Air EEZ then Sovereign

Land

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

1) National cyber command with branches for maritime, air and land trade up of civilian and security personnel.
2) Sea, air and land assets

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Provide expertise and support. Should not own - critical or Sovereign infrastructure shouldn’t be in the hands of private sector.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Similar to the Defences Forces new organisational aspirations there should be a GOLD, SILVER and BROOZE option costed out and timelines to each.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

This should have being implemented a longtime ago. Too long has successive Governments hidden behind ‘Neutrality’.
Terrorism of any form doesn’t filter out Neutral Countries. Ireland has being lucky not to draw the wrath of others but our recent outspoken national views (right or wrong) on other Countries isn’t going unnoticed. It’s not a case of ‘if’ but ‘when’.

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

The sea under Ireland governance is vast, the amount of space to monitor present a challenge and vulnerability, Ireland lack enough plane and ship which would be require to ensure a proper monitoring of such vast area even to enable preventive action. For example if a ship turn off its ship tracker how do we monitor its position and its actions ?

May be we could use other nation in Europe to help with surveillance, a bit like Europol for maritime policing.
Or use drone type (submarine) to help monitor the sea bed

Threats:
- illegal fishing
- destruction of undermarine cable

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

conflict with other countries which could decide to sabotage or spy upon our underwater communication.

Invest in Maritime force and potentially drone/technology
Enable European collaboration on Maritime policiing.

Climate change, either from increase in storms (which could have consequences on land), or changes in the oceanic currents.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

For the underwater cable yes this can be evry specific in term of location

For maritime life and fishing, NO.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Invest in capabilities , promote the importance of the sea to the public

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Use the private sector to build, maintain, operate, but in the end critical maritime infrastructure should belong to the sate as a critical assets, The state should also guide properly the private sector

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Very Important.
Yes focus on the EU and UK
Use the knowledge from country like Japan, Sweden, Finland, Island

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, but don't detail too much

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

No

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

The fundamental biggest threat to Ireland's maritime security is the inability of the Irish Naval Service (NS) to put sufficient naval assets to sea due to insufficient personnel. For some specialists it will take multiple years to get the basic level of qualification to complete their role, it is therefore essential that retention of personnel is prioritised.

Due to the size of Irish EEZ, in the late 90s Government established a need for the NS to deliver 1400 patrol days annually (this was before the size of the area to patrol increased due to our Continental Shelf claim), the NS was able to deliver only 428 in 2024.

In addition, the lack of sonar means we don't know the threats already in our waters.

However, the relevant strategic threats identified in the National Risk Assessment 2024 include armed conflict, terrorism, hybrid threats, infrastructure deficits, environmental risks and technological risks which have maritime dimensions (some of which are specifically called out).

The same can be said for the Irish Air Corps (AC).

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

The most likely threats to Ireland include the need to conduct fishery protection, contraband interdiction, threats to sub surface infrastructure (such as gas pipelines (on which we are 100% reliant), electricity interconnectors, submarine cables (including from offshore wind turbines).

These are not, in my opinion, new threats - just the likelihood of these threats coming to pass has increased.

The way to deter any threat is active continuous monitoring of our waters (on and under the surface). Ultimately only the NS has the power to conduct enforcement action in Irish waters (aided by AC assets)
And therefore it is critical to address the strategic threat of the NS being unable to put vessels to sea.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland's maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

When we look at Irish submarine cables these are ,more of less, found in the waters all around Ireland.

Our electricity interconnectors are in the Irish and Celtic Seas. Our gas pipelines are off Mayo and in the Irish Sea.

Off shore winds is likely to be found in the future all around the coast.

Obviously other threats such as contraband and fisheries protection could be anywhere in our waters.

Therefore we must have the ability to continuously and concurrently conduct patrols of the Irish & Celtic Seas, and the West Coast as well as respond unforeseen events at short notice at all times.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland's maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Some nations are leveraging Unmanned Surface & Sub-surface Vessels (USVs) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for surveillance. These are force multipliers but they cannot replace manned vessels which are the only way to actively counter a threat. Should we go down this route it must only to be supplement manned vessels.

Some of these use a contracted private industry provider model, this risks both the data collected and unavailability (as Ukraine has seen with "Starlink").

It is unclear, from open sources, as to if these would meet the military specifications for detection of military type threats. There also appears to be many emerging options, we must choose proven technologies rather than being a launch customer. Having said that, the NS and AC could work with civilian Irish companies to assist them to develop expertise as they have in the past.

As much of our infrastructure is subsurface that means that sonar is required to monitor it. This must be part of the basic fit out of all existing and future NS vessels.

The various elements of the NS at Haulbowline must be able to gather and fuse information from all available sources, including sonar, radar and EU Satellite Centre data to provide a continuous near time recognised maritime picture.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

This is essential, they must be required by law to provide information on the precise locations of their infrastructure and share any information that they may gather with regard to interference with same.

The State must enforce the private sector's implementation of their requirements under EU law, such as the NIS2 & CER Directives.

However, the State must be cautious as to how much involvement private sector has, for example some private companies may have close relationships with nation states such as China, while others have proven in the past to be less than 100% reliable (eg "Starlink").

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Due to the nature of our waters bordering those of other friendly states this is essential.

We must however remember that their interests will not always align. One of our friendly neighbours has in the past “tapped” submarine cables coming from Ireland (or be it on land, https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/uk-spy-base-gchq-tapped-irish-internet-cables-1.2019492). Also if one of their adversaries are operating in Irish waters, they are also likely to be, in order to protect their assets. It is well publicised that US and British submarines had interactions with Irish fishing vessels in the past.

In addition, we must remember that all our neighbours are all members of NATO, who may not give us access to all the information available, especially on their own vessels movements. While NATO is friendly to Ireland and we are a PfP member this type of information may be extremely sensitive.

It could also be assumed that if NATO and/or EU partners were sharing such data with Ireland, they would want the same in return. This would be a potential breach of “Irish Neutrality”.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

To a degree yes but the action plan is there already, the various actions plans on the implementation of the Commission on the Defence Forces recommendations.

The longer the recommendations take to implement the more of a negative effect it will have on retention and therefore the ability of the NS to delivery the required capabilities. This cannot be all about recruitment, retention is a key issue.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

N/a

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Threats to our fishing stocks due to illegal and over fishing. Threat to our under sea cables as well as threat of illegal activity at sea including drug and weapons trade. In extreme circumstances threat of invasion by sea.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Given threats of all off shore activity, it is essential that we have the capacity to identify all activity within our marine area and more importantly that we have capacity to respond. There is a need for a national strategy involving all essential services, especially the Naval service, the Army and the Aircore as well as the Garda, coastal service and the Civil Defence. In the circumstances we require radar and capacity for rapid air and ocean response.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

It is appreciated that we have good neighbourly relationship with United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal and as such focus ought to be from south western to north western maritime area.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Priority ought to focus on radar, Naval, Airforce and Drones

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Our national security ought not rely on private sector

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

International cooperation is essential to our security and to the security of our neighbours and as such we ought to enter into partnership agreements with EU and neighbouring countries such as UK and Norway

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

I am not in a position to define the key elements of a National Marine Action Plan but it is inconceivable that a strategy would not incorporate an Action Plan

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

There is a need for urgency and political willingness to progress and deliver a National Marine Strategy

Contact

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland’s maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

How we define a threat derives from how we define security. Maritime security should not only be conceived as a purely military exercise of defence against hostile forces, rogue actors, intelligence gathering vessels and grey zone warfare acts of sabotage. Security practices function best when a broad definition of security operates, where environmental security, human security, national security and the blue economy vulnerabilities are responded to holistically. These threats are interrelated and so environmental threats that emanate from the effects of climate change or from the threat from uninsured or shadow fleet pollution segue into the threats to the blue economy from smuggling and illegal and overfishing. Therefore, the same resources of surveillance and interdiction are required to address threats arising from terrorist acts, state-sponsored acts of sabotage, chemical attack and contraband (drug) smuggling. It is important that 'critical infrastructure', like the conception of security, is defined broadly, and that the focus is on attaining comprehensive maritime domain awareness and interdiction capacities sufficient to police Ireland's EEZ and continental shelf and SAR zone.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland’s maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Besides being a relatively porous border zone for criminals to access Ireland, I would imagine Ireland's western seaboard is particularly vulnerable to hostile navies and, in time of war to the threat of intentional pollution, direct attack on civilian vessels/infrastructure or even invasion. Maritime security does not just occur at sea, it also requires a coastal surveillance and civil defence component that requires land-based security actors being integrated with naval assets. A central plank of the strategy should see the navy and airforce together with inter alia An Garda Siochana, Met Eireann, the Marine Ireland Industry Network, the Maritime Institute and Ireland's Civil Defence systematically coordinated to counter all land-sea vulnerabilities. There are also threats that will emerge from climate change (increased number of dead zones for instance), from more intense storms that will have huge economic effects, and from decreased fishing catches that require maritime security plans to produce strategies that build-in long-term resilience against environmental and economic threats.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

While it would be tempting in the short term to focus on sites where undersea cables can be damaged by rogue actors, the maritime strategy should aim for complete maritime and aerial domain awareness and not allow gaps to occur. One suggestion to manage the vast space around the island would be to examine the possibility of intergrating the maritime security responses with the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF), so that maritime economic regions align with a zonal approach to securing Ireland's maritime area. This would facilitate a holistic governance approach to security that encompasses undersea, surface and aerial management of our waters.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

It is essential that the maritime security plan integrates state and non-state actors to ensure that civil society is involved in the planning and implementation of maritime security. Maritime security primarily protects Ireland and the EU's economic interests in the marine economy. All marine sectors, in fishing, tourism, commercial shipping, port management, insurance, and energy production need to invest into the production of security at sea. They should at the very least be consulted in the drafting of the plan with a view to ascertaining what they can add to it. Moreover, it needs to be acknowledged that NGOs such as the RNLI and commercial actors in the fishing industry generate a great amount of Ireland's present maritime security and it should be investigated how this role can be embedded and enhanced through regular capacity building exercises and training.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

It goes without saying that the strategy on the eastern, northern and south eastern seaboard needs to be compatible with and operate in harmony with the UKs national maritime security structure. I would suggest however that the seaspace Ireland has responsibility for (including its SAR zone) be secured in tight alignment with the EU maritime security strategy. Ireland's seas ought to be seen as the western frontier of the European Union and thus receive similar surveillance and interdiction resources that are available to Mediterranean coastal states. For instance, full access to EURSUR and Frontex assets, and close integration with Spain, France and Portugal's intelligence and interdiction capacities to compliment Irish naval and airforce capacities should be aspired to. Conceiving Ireland's seascape as a vast unsecured frontier to the EU would attract resources and political attention that is currently lacking.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

I do not have sufficient information to comment.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

The maritime security strategy needs to be an organic document, changeable and adaptable to political and military conditions. I would suggest that it requires a permanent research unit, possibly located in Ringaskiddy, which would act as a hub for undertaking and disseminating research, building awareness and communicating with public and private actors, providing training and hosting of naval and other delegations etc. The strategy document will need to be updated regularly and establishing a hub, an Irish Maritime Security Strategy Centre, would ensure that plan is in a constant state of revision and adjustment. The document that will be produced by this current process is only the beginning of Irelands quest for maritime security. A research base would ensure that new threats, technologies and geopolitical realities are continually being incorporated into a living strategy that will be resilient, versatile and informed by evidence.

An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

Contact

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Inability to safeguard due to underdeveloped defensive capabilities, both maritime and airborne.
Naval forces underequipped and staffed, as is the army air corp.
Our weakness, is Europes weakness.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Russian incursions and potential attacks on underwater sea communication cables.
Drug smuggling, and illegal fishing as secondary considerations.
Great partnership with EU and British naval forces to assist in patrol and interdiction - financially contribute if that is required.
Investment is remote response capabilities - drone technologies.
Investment in naval and aircorp strategic development - as is currently taking place, but the time scale requires the two earlier steps now.
We will never have the capabilities to cover our soverign waters without EU and British assistance.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Given the scale of the area and current limitations, yes, coverage of underwater sea comms should be the central immediate priority, and inner coastal for drug interdiction.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Remote drone technology for surveilence and interdiction, satellite time, and necessary hardward and development of techcapabilities to support remote sensing at scale ovee strategic areas.
Implementation of currrent naval development plans, and EU and British naval support involvement with comensurate finanical contributions.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

No, not as owners. Yes, as technology suppliers, but not as operators, we need national state capacity, along with EU partners.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, absolutely, as outlined above. EU, UK and Norway, and Iceland.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, laying out an operational plan, with prioritised actions, timelines and funding.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Our current level of maritime security provision is very poor, and leaves key critical communication infrastructure vulnerable to attack from hostile Russian forces, with national and European impacts. Irish notions of nuetrality and free riding need to be addressed at the political level, a big challenge.

Contact

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

As an island nation, maritime issues have always dominated all aspects of life in Ireland. From trade, to communications, to movement of people, the maritime realm is strategically vital.

Our economy is dependant on energy imports, gas in particular. We have no long term secure supply and rely on gas pipelines No other county in the the EU is so dependant on a single energy source for electricity generation.

Our electricity network is an island system, dependant on interconnectors for security, for import/export of fossil and renewable energy. Again, Ireland is among only a tiny number of countries that is so vulnerable.

Renewable energy in future will need to be large scale, offshore wind. This will mean cable connections between turbines and onto shore.

Our digital economy is highly dependant on fibre optic cable links. Once again, no other nation in the EU has more critical IT infrastructure within its economic area. As AI develops these cables will become even more important.

All of these links are vital and yet highly vulnerable to attack by malevolent actors or disruption by accident. In all cases repair is difficult, slow and expensive. Due to the greater depth of future cables, and the increase in numbers, it will be even more difficult to remedy.

We have also seen threats from drug smugglers, attracted by our undefended coastline. Over the past few years we have seen how significant this illicit trade is becoming.

Finally, almost all our trade is maritime based. So, shipping is critical for our viability. Ships and shipping lines have not been under threat for decades, but there is no guarantee that this will continue.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

I have outlined the vulnerabilities in Q1.

The threats arise from the increasingly unstable and fractious geopolitical landscape worldwide. From downright aggression, to hybrid warfare, to threats, the risks are rising. Given our precarious vulnerability, even a minor incident affecting any of our maritime links will lead to a major negative response within our economy. The damage will be severe and long lasting, calling into question our economic viability in future.

Given all of this, we need a robust plan to defend and secure our essential assets. Threats must be detected early and a credible, proportionate deterrent force available for immediate deployment.

Unfortunately, we have no such defence. No primary radar as yet, no navy, no military coastguard and no air force.

We need a dedicated Minister for Defence, with a modern military command structure beneath them. No more timeshare ministries, or Civil War military structures
We need Primary Radar, linked to the EU's systems.
We need a military coast guard service rather than simply a private civilian contractor supplied rescue service.
We need a Navy, with real combat ships and competant, well staffed crews, ready for immediate deployment
We need air and drone support for the Navy.
We need to participate fully in EU satellite, cyber and space defence systems, including satellite tracking and cyber measures.
.
Most of all, we need to grow up as a nation and take ourselves seriously as partners in the EU, who can be depended on to defend our own vital interests and those of our EU allies and friends.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

No.

If we attempt that strategy it will be clearly obvious to all that we have no defence in certain areas. Threats are highly mobile and will target undefended areas.

All parts of our economic zone must be, and be seen to be, protected and secured effectively.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland's maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

I have listed these in Q1.

Electricity interconnectors
Windfarm cables
Gas interconnectors
Fibre optic cables
Shipping lines
Coast line landing areas - for drug smugglers

We need a dedicated Minister for Defence, with a modern military command structure beneath them. No more timeshare ministries, or Civil War military structures
We need Primary Radar, linked to the EU's systems.
We need a military coast guard service rather than simply a private civilian contractor supplied rescue service.
We need a Navy, with real combat ships and competant, well staffed crews, ready for immediate deployment
We need air and drone support for the Navy.
We need to participate fully in EU satellite, cyber and space defence systems, including satellite tracking and cyber measures.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes.

Private sector asset owners are not in a position to militarily defend these assets. Yet the assets are of key national importance. The asset owners pay significantly through corporate tax which should be seen as their contribution to defence.

A clear system needs to be established which affords protection to companies setting up in Ireland, where responsibilities for security and defence are set out. It is essential that an immediate emergency response capability is know to all stakeholders.

The responsibility for defence of national assets rests with the state and must continue to do so.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes.

Geography is no protection and wilful blindness no defence. We need to play a clear, active and unambiguous role in all EU defence and security mechanisms. We need military technology and systems are align fully with those of our EU partners. Radar systems, vehicles, arms, ships, planes, drones, cyber systems etc - all should match and conform fully with EU systems. I strongly advocate procurement of systems from EU sources, preferably the same as other EU countries where we can exchange assistance effectively at short notice - France is the obvious choice as a partner in this arrangement.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes.

Strategy without an effective plan is juts more wishful thinking.

We need an Action Plan, with dedicated, ringfenced, 5 year rolling budgets and specific achievement milestones. To ensure that this works well, we need a full time Minister for Defence who will advocate, encourage and drive progress at the cabinet table.

Elements:
Set up of stand alone Dept of Defence
Structure of Navy set up
Plan, spec and timelines for recruitment and retention of naval personnel and skillsets
Plan, spec, timelines for radar, sonar, cyber security, drone support published
Plan, spec, timeline for procurement of combat ships published
Plan, spec, timeline for procurement of air combat support
Plan for active co-operation and engagement with EU in all defence and security matters including plans for the deployment of staff to support these arrangements.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Time is not on our side here.....we need fast effective action to secure our future. This action will require political courage and the ability to make decisions that some will strongly disagree with. But, the public good demands that we stand up, as citizens and as a Government, and be seen to take our future seriously as informed, mature adults of the 21st century.

There is no greater public good that protecting and defending our democracy, the lives and the future of our people. This cannot be done with pious platitudes, with 'whataboutery', or wishful thinking, only with firm direct, action.

Through this Maritime Strategy I hope to see demonstrable courage, action and results over the next 5 years. If not, sadly, there may not be another chance to secure ourselves and our children.

An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland’s maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

1. We are vulnerable to attack and spying on the cables under sea near our shores, we need to protect them.
2. Fishing - we need to protect our waters from illegal fishing around our coastal waters.
3. Biodiversity - bad actors damaging our sea's biodiversity - fishing, polluters, etc.
4. Drugs & illegal imports - we need to patrol our waters to prevent illegal imports like drugs or arms etc.
5. We need to have a capability to rescue people in trouble in our seas and not depend on Britain.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland’s maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

1. Our Sea's Biodiversity is not being protected and it is getting worse - skills and tech to protect against polluters and bad actors.
1a. lack of patrolling navy
2. lack of technology - air - sea planes and helicopters.
3. lack of navy people power
4. lack of technology skills to intercept cyber and attacks on the cables in our seas
5. lack of knowledge and capability to protect our sea's biodiversity

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

1. protect out maritime nations parks 1st
2. West coast

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

1. Drones invest in at least 1000 to monitor coastal areas - biodiversity, fishing, rescue, security
2. Biodiversity & Climate change technology and skills to measure predict and act
3. Radar, lidar, monitoring equipment
4. navy ships and fast moving crafts to catch
5. partnership with rangers etc for landing on vessels

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes.
They could be contracted to support navy and research support.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, increase cooperation -- this is only way to be more effective.
Yes, include EU partners.
Yes, partner with NATO and other maritime organisations.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes.
Security strategy & investment
Biodiversity protection
Fishery protection
Climate change research and actions

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, Maritime security most include protection of our seas biodiversity and climate change research in our seas.

Tax our seas users and increase penalties for those found violating,

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

The lack of ships at sea. We have a Defence Force and the sea and the air are vital for our protection.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

We need more Naval ships bases on our west and east coastline. Tracking ships from Haulbowine Naval Base is to easy

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

The south and west coast

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Air cover and long range radar

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

No. Upgrade the Naval Service including a Coastguard for inshore patrols. Pay the crew as professionals. Ships at sea should have no shore leave until the ship completed it's 2/3 weeks. The crew would have 2/3 weeks off. This important for moral and family life.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

No, we are small island and if we are successful on protecting ourselves then we are a serious force to be reckoned with.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

The Naval Sevice and Air Corp working together. The Army dealing with intelligents and threats within the country and supporting the Gardai.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Long range tracking of shipping off our coastline.

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Lack of Navy capability to patrol Ireland's waters and to protect our undersea infrastructure

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Non-Allied nations seeking to exploit Ireland's known under-resourced Naval and security infrastructure to damage us and our allies

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Undersea infrastructure

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Sonar, drone cameras, naval ships

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

No. Security of a sovereign nation should be owned and controlled by government

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

We need to partner with the EU, then our allied nations including the UK. NATO and the UN are increasingly toothless due to veto powers by the USA, Russia and China: the largest state actors likely to engage in war fare against a small island nation like Ireland with limited naval capability

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Navy & sonar monitors by navy and state security agencies

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

We can no longer trust the UK and USA to defend our island, we must have the capability to protect ourselves WITHOUT compromising our nation's policy or neutrality in foreign wars. This includes stopping Ireland's facilitation of US military using Shannon to refuel their aircraft while participating in international violence and genocide, which is against the national sentiment on these conflicts.

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

Disruption of interconnections of fuel energy and communication (in no particular order) by third party countries that see us as allied to countries with powers and values that conflict with theirs. Pollution and plastic pollution in particular.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Countries with different values and views to what we in Ireland the UK and EU aspire to who would use our strategic position and vulnerability to attack inter Atlantic communication cables and inter-connectors as well as disrupt our ports causing inability to fish all affecting our ability to sustain ourselves.
We must increase our navy and air corp to a level where we can protect ourselves effectively. This will involve purchasing hardware as well as substantially increasing our navy and air corp personnel. The government should give serious consideration to increasing salaries to our defence forces to attract new recruits and retain our current experienced members of the forces. Also the the issue of our neutrality should be set to one side as no one nation of our size and location can exist without interdependency with our neighbours such as UK France and EU.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes, we have one of the largest maritime areas in ratio to our landmass of any country in the world and we are also a strategic landing point for numerous inter-connectors that also serve our neighbours

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Navy, increase the number of vessels available to be at sea and increase their ability to take on threats from other vessels.
Air-Corp , increase number of planes and helicopters and there ability to defend us and our waters. Also the use of radar / sonar / GPS /AIS and other available technology and if necessary land based ability’s to launch ground to air deterrent.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Ideally the defence of our country and surrounding waters should be operated by the state via the Navy the Air-Corp and our Army. We should develop a navy / air-corp we are all proud of. This should include cyber defence.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes we should interact with our UK, EU Neighbours and NATO to increase our ability to defend ourselves and our infrastructures that are also used by and support our Neighbours. Neutrality must be set aside in order to increase our ability to protect ourselves.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Yes with focus on gearing up to having sufficient equipment including ships and aircraft and staff to fully man our assets at all times over all the waters we have responsibly for.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Massively increase our offshore wind electricity generation and where possible other hydropower generation options. Look to our neighbours such as The Shetland Islands and across the North Sea to Norway at how they harness their wind and water to provide electricity to the general public at a fraction of what we are paying per kilowatt. (Circa €0.02 per Kilowatt).
INVEST - INVEST - INVEST
This is an Emergency and should be treated with the same level of focus and action across the country as we did when COVID or Foot and Mouth struck. We also need to work with our nearest neighbours in Northern Ireland. An all Ireland approach is required despite the fact we do have a border. Joint ventures could be explicit UK in relation to Northern Ireland
If a hostile actor attacks one of our neighbours such as the UK it will undoubtedly affect us therefore must work with and learn from our neighbours.
INVEST - INVEST - INVEST and then INVEST some more.

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Our general concern comes under four heads:
1.
Ireland's maritime strategy is increasingly shaped by EU defence integration tools:
PESCO:
SAFE: Promotes "maritime domain awareness" as a pillar of EU militarization.
NATO Partnership: The Individually Tailored Partnership Programme" incentivises interoperability with NATO forces. RAF activity over Irish airspace
Reframes Ireland's maritime risks through bloc mentality
2.
Nord Stream Precedent
Exemplifies perils of politicized threat inflation. Risk of replicating this failure by attributing routine maritime incidents to Russian malice without proof
3.
The Taoiseach's reliance on some sort of imagined Irish comparison to Baltic States which fundamentally misrepresents history and basic geography. US and European intelligence assessment confirm that Baltic undersea incidents were accidents not sabotage.
4.
Misallocation of resources as illustrated by Thales contract as driven by threat inflation.

Questions

Please answer the below questions in the boxes provided. There is a 3,000 character limit per question. When you have completed your answers please hit the submit button at the bottom of the page.

Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

The framing of the question indicates an ideological rather than an empirical agenda:

Undersea Infrastructure Damage: Historical data shows 90% of incidents (e.g., cable breaks) are caused by anchors, fishing gear, or natural events. Only 1 confirmed sabotage incident exists globally (Nord Stream), attributed to Ukrainian proxies by German investigators—not Russia.

Russian Naval Activity: Ships like Viktor Leonov operate legally within EEZs under United Nations Convention on the Law Of the Sea. Claims of "suspicious mapping" ignore that identical activities occur by EU/NATO allies (e.g., UK/US subsea surveys off Donegal).

Organized Crime: Drug interdiction (e.g., 2023 cocaine seizure) relies on national intelligence—not EU militarization.

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland’s maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

Recognise chronic limitations of the "Hybrid Warfare" Narrative:

Since 2022, zero attacks on Irish infrastructure occurred, yet Baltic incidents (e.g., Estlink cable cuts) involved NATO-member vessels (e.g., NewNew Polar Bear under Finnish investigation).

Preparing for phantom threats diverts resources from measurable risks like accidental damage (e.g., 2024 Celtic Sea cable rupture from trawler).

Climate-related disruptions to ports and energy systems. Prepare via renewable microgrids and hardened cable corridors—not sonar for Russian submarines.

Cost-Effective Measures: Prioritize coastal surveillance upgrades (~€20m) over sonar systems (€100m+). Enhance fishery patrols to monitor anchor hazards.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Focusing on "high-risk zones" is scientifically baseless:

Cable Landing Points: 78% of cable damage occurs > 50 km from shore due to shipping lanes, not targeted aggression.

Concentrate on cable hubs (e.g., Galway/Mayo) and Dublin Port—not hypothetical "high-risk" zones

Energy Infrastructure: Corrib gas field has zero security incidents since 2015.

Investment should address pipeline corrosion (higher likelihood than sabotage).

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

Current proposals prioritize symbolism over security:

Sonar Systems (Thales): €100m+ contract for monitoring cables ignores:

Naval Service's personnel crisis (only 1–2 ships operational).

Sonar's irrelevance against surface threats (e.g., drug smuggling).

Cost-Effective Alternatives:

Automatic Identification System Tracking Expansion: €5m for real-time ship movement monitoring.
Coastal Radar Network: €15m to cover blind spots.

So:
Recruitment bonuses for naval engineers.
Public-private cable maintenance funds.
Port resilience (e.g., firefighting capacity).

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

Owners must bear primary responsibility:

Cable/Pipeline Operators: Should fund mandatory security audits and insurance bonds for repairs. Current strategy socializes risk (state protection) while privatizing profits.

Port Authorities: Implement AI-based threat detection (e.g., contraband scanning)—funded by port fees, not taxpayers.

Cable operators (e.g., Google, Meta) should co-fund patrols and share surveillance data via a Maritime Infrastructure Council.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Reject PESCO projects that militarize maritime policy.

EU/NATO integration undermines Irish sovereignty:

PESCO's Critical Seabed Project: Advances EU military autonomy, requiring shared data with NATO via "interoperability" clauses.

NATO Partnership: Contradicts neutrality; 85% of NATO members increased military spending after similar agreements.

Alternative Models: Join the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea Compliance Network for non-aligned states.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

Need to acknowledge that an “Action Plan” could institutionalize already powerful militarization drift.

But need for:

Accountability Measures:

Sunset clauses requiring Dáil approval for all EU defense initiatives.

Cancel Thales if bribery is proven.

Look out for:

Key Risks:

Budget Overruns: Sonar project costs have already risen 30%.

Mission Creep: Participation in 1 PESCO project (2024) expanded to 6 by 2025.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?

3000 character(s) maximum

Ireland must resist inflating risks to please EU/NATO partners.

Independent Threat Assessment: Audit all "suspicious activity" claims (e.g., Russian ships) by non-defence experts.

Nord Stream’s unresolved sabotage proves "hybrid threat" rhetoric enables cover-ups.

Nord Stream Lesson: Prioritize diplomatic channels with Russia to prevent escalation. Germany's energy crisis stemmed from politicized infrastructure targeting.

Neutrality Compliance: Ban foreign military exercises in Irish EEZs (e.g., 2022 Russian drills were matched by 11 NATO exercises).

An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

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Q1. What do you see as the most significant current threats or vulnerabilities to Ireland's maritime security?

3000 character(s) maximum

-Foreign actors e.g. other nation states, criminal organisations malovently acting in our maritime environment.
-Pollution
-Security of Irelands imports/exports moving through the waters.
-Irish government not taking action in order to secure our martime environment and borders
-Irish navy not staffed enough nor large enough to do its job

Q2. What do you foresee will be the biggest emerging threats/future challenges to Ireland's maritime security and how would you best prepare for them?

3000 character(s) maximum

-Increase in global instability worsening security of IRelands imports/exports. NEed to increase capability of navy and to join with partner nations and organisations e.g. the EU and UK to protect our waters and what moves through them.

Q3. Should the Strategy prioritise its focus on specific geographical areas in Ireland’s maritime domain?

3000 character(s) maximum

Proximity to the landmass should be a key priotity but the area in its entirity must be secured.

Q4. To most effectively safeguard Ireland’s maritime interests, what strategic investments in technology, infrastructure, or capabilities should be prioritised?

3000 character(s) maximum

-The navy.
-the coast guard.
-Irish Customs.

Need to ensure that the irish gov have a capability in a broader spread of ports than currently for instance, there only being one naval base in cork.

The fact that the majority of key irish imports come through dublin port is a vulnerability - this should be spread out. Increase the development of other irish ports.

Place more emphasis on irish fishing industry to help with food supply security.

Q5. Should the National Maritime Security Strategy involve the private sector who may be owners or operators of critical maritime infrastructure? What role could they play?

3000 character(s) maximum

They need to share information with what they do in our waters and have a level of response capability.

Q6. What role do you think international cooperation should play in the new National Maritime Security Strategy? Should this increased cooperation include a focus on our partners in the EU, with neighbouring countries and through our Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO or other international maritime organisations?

3000 character(s) maximum

Increase internation cooperation which should focus firstly with the EU, then our UK neighbours, and then other international orgs such as NATO.

This will help develop our capability, will reduce the bill on the taxpayer, increase international relations.

Q7. Do you think the National Maritime Security Strategy should be accompanied by an Action Plan that will detail how the strategy will be implemented? What do you think the key elements of this Action Plan should be?

3000 character(s) maximum

IT should and set timelines need to be stated from the begining so that it can't just be pushed down the road.

Q8. If there is anything additional you would like to propose or any general thoughts you have on maritime security, please let us know?