

National Marine Planning Framework Baseline Report

Overview of Submissions Received during Public Consultation

The Department received **173 responses** to the consultation from a broad range of stakeholders, including members of the public, coastal community groups, environmental NGOs, sports bodies, stakeholder representative bodies, fisheries organisations, energy providers, Local Authorities, public sector bodies, political representatives and parties, and higher education bodies.

Topics Cited by Respondents

As expected, a broad range of issues have been addressed in submissions. A preliminary analysis shows that the topics most frequently mentioned were the marine environment (53% of respondents), ports/harbours/shipping (44%), and nature conservation (41%). Other issues raised in many submissions include consents and licensing (34%), renewable energy (34%), aquaculture (31%), fisheries (28%), seaweed harvesting (23%), cultural heritage and assets (23%).

Climate change and how the NMPF could contribute to Ireland's climate change mitigation and adaptation measures was also one of the most frequently raised issues (42%).

On the zoning issue, respondents were asked to indicate if they preferred a zoning approach, policy-based approach or a hybrid of both. Of the 57 respondents who expressed a preference for one approach over another, 44% favoured a policy-led plan, 40% elected for a hybrid model, and 16% indicated a preference for zoning.

Breakdown of Responses by Topic

Marine Environment	53%	Petroleum	16%
Ports, Harbours, Shipping	44%	Our Ocean Wealth	14%
Climate Change	42%	Marine Plan Objectives	13%
Nature Conservation	41%	Brexit	12%
Implementation/Enforcement/Review	35%	Seascapes	12%
Consents and Licensing	34%	Carbon Capture and Storage	9%
Regulatory Context	34%	Coastal Erosion/Protection	9%
Renewables	34%	Offshore Gas Storage	9%
Tourism	34%	Transmission Systems	9%
Linkage with Land Planning	32%	Waste Water Treatment and Disposal	9%
Aquaculture	31%	Consultation Issues	8%
Environmental Assessments	29%	Defence and National Security	8%
Fisheries	28%	Marine Aggregates	7%
Sport and Recreation	26%	Telecommunications Cables	4%
Cultural Heritage and Assets	23%	<u>Safety</u>	2%
Seaweed Harvesting	23%	Policy	44%*
Coastal and Island Communities	21%	Hybrid	40%*
Transboundary Co-operation	20%	Zoning	16%*

* Of those who expressed a preference in response to the spatial designation question