

Submission from Save Our Seafront, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Re. Action 8: Introduce a new Planning and Consent Architecture for Development in the Marine Area.

Comment:

Offshore Windfarm development will have a negative impact on landscape and tourism unless it is managed properly and in accordance with accepted international standards. Ireland's coastline is internationally renowned and it is a significant factor in attracting tourists e.g. the Wild Atlantic Way and the East Coast of Ireland. The imposition of large scale industrial-scale wind farms in close proximity to the coastline would have a seriously detrimental effect on the landscape and would result in the loss of tourism and jobs.

The norm for the development of large offshore windfarms in other European countries is 22km from the coastline. We strongly advocate that this should be the norm for Ireland, if it is deemed necessary to go that route. We are also conscious of the negative effects on marine life of such developments, and the many questions about the effectiveness and cost benefit of windfarms as opposed to solar energy, wave power etc. We accept and advocate the necessity for renewable energy in combating Climate Change, but it should be effected in a manner which does not destroy Ireland's beautiful landscape and its tourism industry which is central to the economic well-being of so many people.

This situation arises from the undemocratic nature of the Foreshore Act 1933 which allows for the granting of foreshore leases on the sole authority of the Minister for the Marine, with no statutory involvement of local authorities and no public right of appeal.

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