

Email: bioeconomy@decc.gov.ie

Bioeconomy Action Plan Consultation
Sectoral Policy and Land Use
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications



Dear Sir/Madam,

The Marine Institute (MI) welcomes the Bioeconomy Action Plan Consultation and Discussion Document as part of the public consultation process by Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). We fully support the development of the plan and recognise its importance in setting the national agenda for the bioeconomy sector in Ireland, and as part of this acknowledging the importance of the blue bioeconomy in this context.

At national level, the MI has responsibility for coordinating the development of Irelands next Marine Research, Knowledge and Innovation strategy, Ocean Knowledge 2030. This strategy, being developed in partnership with the Marine Research Funders Forum, will provide a framework within which national and international funding and cooperation can be leveraged to target strategic areas of importance. A key component of this will be the blue bioeconomy, relating to the sustainable and circular utilisation of aquatic biomass including that sourced from fisheries and aquaculture.

Internationally, the Marine Institute is a partner in the Horizon Europe Partnership on Sustainable Blue Economy (SBEP). The partnership consists of 60 partners across 25 countries and the European Commission facilitating the pooling of research and innovation investments and alignment of national programmes at pan-European scale. The Blue bioeconomy features both in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the SBEP and in the five priority areas within the upcoming first call (mid-February 2023). The MI is also a partner on the current BlueBio ERA-Net Cofund.

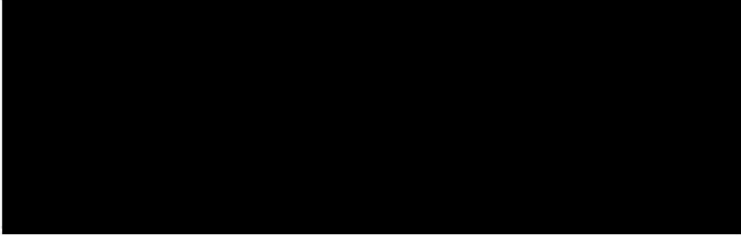
The MI has engaged and will continue to engage in the development of the Bioeconomy Action Plan through the Bioeconomy Implementation Group, expert advisory group to the Bioeconomy Forum, and bilateral meetings with DECC and DAFM.

Other comments:

- Implementation to enable monitoring/tracking of defined actions that will be set out in the plan will be key. Is it the intention to include this information in the Governance Pillar?
- Under section 6.5 Agriculture, Food & the Marine Pillar – blue bioeconomy is interlinked with fisheries and aquaculture as sources of aquatic biomass, could this be better stated in this section?
- It may be useful to also to highlight the non-marine / broader aquatic ecosystems.

We would like to thank you once again for the opportunity to comment and re-iterate our support for the implementation of the action plan.

Yours faithfully,



Director Policy, Innovation and Research Support Services
Marine Institute

