

Coiste Tacaíochta Chalafoirt Ros a' Mhíl,  
f/ch Iasc Mara,  
Ros a' Mhíl  
Co. na Gaillimhe.



Ref: Input into Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Future Framework Policy Statement

12/2/24

A chara,

Táim ag scríobh chugat mar Cathaoirleach Coiste Tacaíochta Chalafoirt Ros a' Mhíl maidir leis an polasaí thuas luaite.

As a Harbour Support committee, we will confine our comments to the question of Ports as laid out in your Policy Statement.

We believe that the policy is seriously deficient in its approach to meeting the Ports requirements of the ORE industry and greatly underplays:

1. The challenge of developing large-scale infrastructure of any type in Ireland – specifically in the almost impossible planning environment that prevails and in the absence of clarity regarding a new planning system.
2. The space challenges of finding suitable locations where an adequate land bank of available ground and deep water are co-located and can be developed in-time to meet the needs of the industry.
3. The potential for distributed rural and coastal jobs to benefit from ORE developments in the region of those communities by using DAFM owned Fishery Harbour Centres as well as commercial ports.

The notion that “a minimum of 4 ports” dedicated to ORE would suffice in Ireland is non-sensical. The development of ORE along the East Coast will require a minimum of 2 Ports to cover the Geographical spread of Activities in the Irish Sea and to cope with the acknowledged “closeness to site” requirements given the relatively “wild” Irish climate,

A minimum of two ports will be required on the South Coast where the climate is wilder again and the potential larger. Cork, while ready to support significant activity will not be able to support the level of activity foreseeable and a second significant port will be required along with support ports for O&M.

The West coast will require at least 3 if not 4 ports as weather considerations here are extreme and space and weather windows will require spreading the load.

In the Irish context, the lack of ready facilities, of Ports and even potential Ports with deepwater accessibility is very limited. Add to that the extreme difficulty of securing planning permission for significant Infrastructure in Ireland combined with the potential conflict with SAC's (The Shannon Estuary being a significant case in point) means that securing ports with the space, capacity and geographical advantages sought after by the ORE Industry will be virtually impossible in Ireland.

The Policy should therefore specifically include the Major Fishery Harbours around the coast owned and operated by DAFM – and consideration should be given to Legislative changes to allow Fishery Harbours to become part of the ORE support/construction infrastructure in tandem with their fisheries activities. The harbours in question are in very important strategic locations and include Killybegs, Ros a Mhíl, An Daingean, Castletownbere, Dunmore East and Howth.

Le gach deá ghuí,

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