



**In the questions that follow, please share your views on how best Ireland can harness this offshore wind opportunity to maximise benefits for our climate, environment and communities.**

## Consultation Questions

### **1. Identifying Maritime Areas for offshore wind development**

The draft SC-DMAP aims to promote the sustainable development and growth of the maritime and coastal economies and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. Government has used an ecosystem-based approach to identify four Maritime Areas within which fixed offshore wind farms may be located in the draft SC-DMAP area. This involves making spatial and policy assessments based on environmental, social and economic data and information, and integrating the views of stakeholders and the public throughout the process. The identification of Maritime Areas has sought to avoid and minimise potential associated adverse environmental impacts, including impacts on biodiversity, EU Natura 2000 sites, and other existing marine users. This has taken place through the comprehensive environmental and technical analysis.

*Do you agree with the four maritime areas identified for future offshore wind development in the draft SC-DMAP? If not, why?*

I welcome the approach taken to the constraints mapping process, which led to the identification and selection of the 4 Maritime Areas.  
It shows a clear plan-led approach to both control offshore development and guide developer to preferred areas.



## 2. Sustainable development and environmental protection

The draft SC-DMAP will provide for the sustainable development of offshore wind through consideration of environmental protection, while maintaining, and where possible, enhancing marine biodiversity. A governance structure will oversee and monitor the implementation of the draft SC-DMAP including environmental impacts. Building upon and informing national, regional and local land and marine planning policy, policy objectives set out in the draft SC-DMAP will inform future decisions and assessments by relevant competent authorities on proposed offshore renewable energy projects and their enabling infrastructure, including for electricity transmission offshore and onshore. Any future offshore wind projects and associated transmission infrastructure within the draft SC-DMAP will also be subject to all necessary environmental assessment and State permits.

*Do you agree that the draft SC-DMAP policy objectives and governance approach, including for environmental protection, will support and guide its sustainable and coherent implementation?*

*Yes I agree that the approach proposed will, if supported by effective regulation, monitoring and reporting.*

*It should remain flexible to integrate any updates to legislation, guidelines etc*



### 3. Promoting shared use of the sea

The draft SC-DMAP ecosystem-based approach aims to maximise opportunities for co-existence between offshore renewable energy and other marine users and activities such as aquaculture, commercial fishing and seafood activity, and tourism and recreation, as well as the protection of the marine environment and biodiversity. The draft Plan provides that mandatory permanent exclusions on additional activities or usages within Maritime Areas identified for future offshore renewable energy development should be not imposed save relating to safety or in other exceptional circumstances.

*Do you agree that the draft SC-DMAP includes sufficient provisions for co-existence between offshore renewable energy and other maritime activities?*

*From my perspective, reading the Plan and SEA seems to suggest ongoing engagement with and collaboration with stakeholders engaged with and operating in the marine area should continue over the lifetime of the Plan.*

### 4. Maximising benefits for all

Independent economic analysis highlights that implementation of the draft SC-DMAP could generate significant economic and societal opportunities in Ireland, through inward investment and employment creation. The analysis also highlights that the majority of these benefits will be captured at regional and local level along the south



coast. Maximising these economic benefits and opportunities is a key objective of the SC-DMAP.

*Do you agree that the plan-led framework set out in the draft SC-DMAP will effectively support and drive economic and employment opportunities, including opportunities along the south coast?*

How effective it will be, will depend on ongoing collaboration, monitoring, reporting and where necessary enforcement action; but the plan sets a welcome framework for this to happen.