

# Towards a Marine Bill: Realising the Opportunity Marine Spatial Planning

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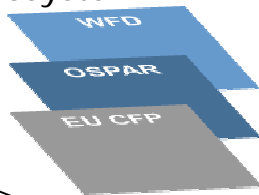
# What is marine spatial planning?

EU/International policies  
and objectives

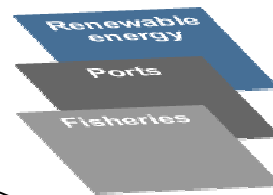


National & regional  
policies/objectives

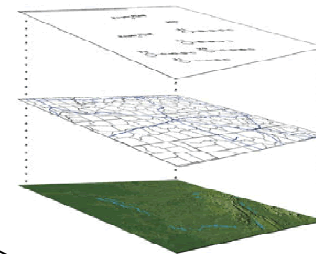
Marine  
Environment/  
Ecosystem



Sectoral uses



Spatial information  
GIS



Integration



- ✓ Plan policies
- ✓ Allocations/maps
- ✓ Targets/Indicators

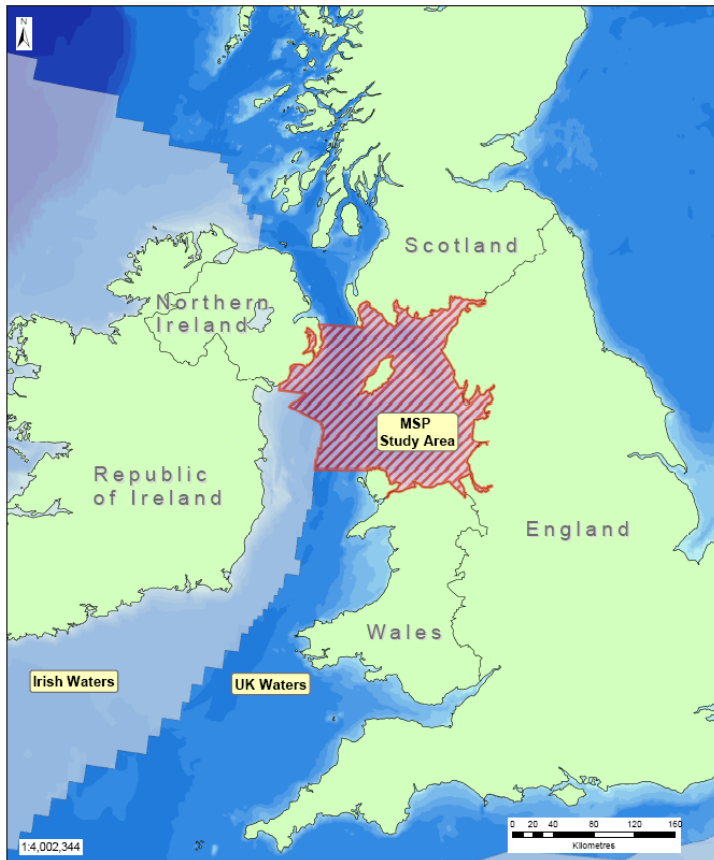
# Benefits of marine spatial planning

- Integrated management - a holistic approach to managing the marine environment
- Proactive and forward-looking - more informed decision-making
- Greater certainty - a mechanism for avoiding, minimising or resolving potential conflict
- A framework for a modern consenting regime

# Developing the policy

- Pilot project in the Irish Sea to examine options for developing, implementing and managing a marine spatial plan
- Forthcoming discussion paper on how a marine spatial planning system might operate, drawing on the emerging conclusions of the Irish Sea pilot

# Irish Sea pilot project



- Review of evidence and literature
- Simulated regional plan, including RIA
- [www.abpmer.co.uk/mspp](http://www.abpmer.co.uk/mspp)

# Practical issues being examined

- Information and data availability/quality
- The boundary and scale of the plan
- Managing the land-sea interface
- How to ensure that all sectors are included
- The time horizon of the plan
- What's included and what's excluded in plan zones

# Issues for the discussion paper

1. Does marine spatial planning require a statutory basis?
2. Which body should be the planning authority?
3. What arrangements should apply for scrutiny, approval, review and revision of plans?
4. How can policy priorities best be included in the plan?

