



EUROPEAN UNION



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# EU Blue Parks Community

1st WORKSHOP (Online) - 06/12/2023

## Co-existence and Co-location in shared island Marine governance (CoCoMar)

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# Background



- The investment of €1.5 million under the Ocean Law and Governance Call 2023 was the **first commitment** pledged by Ireland under the **Mission Charter**
- **Competitive call** launched March 2023, closed May 2023, awarded August 2023
- Aim is to assist with the progress needed towards a **more integrated maritime governance in Ireland** in compliance with national, EU and international commitments and policy goals.
- Result = Five-year Marine Institute funded **CoCoMar** project
- Partnership project with **Queen's University Belfast (Northern Ireland)**
- Officially started on **1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

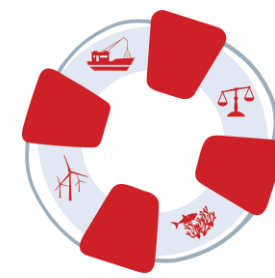
The CoCoMar project (Grant-Aid Agreement No. PBA/OLG/23/01) is carried out with the support of the Marine Institute under the Marine Research Programme and funded by the Government of Ireland.



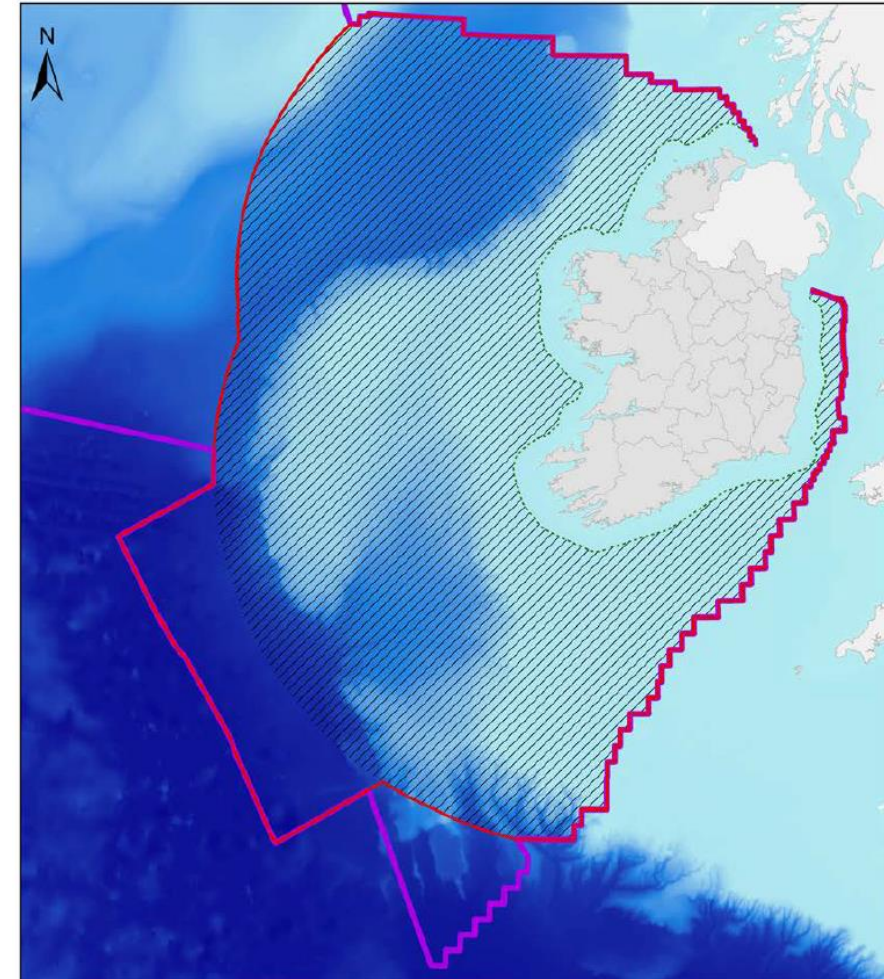
*Foras na Mara*  
*Marine Institute*

# CoCoMar outline

- Uses **transnational working** as a key mechanism to achieve law and policy commitments in an EU Member State (Ireland) and non-EU jurisdiction, Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom
- Strong commitment to consider **co-location and co-existence** in marine plans and other policies but limited demonstration of how this can be achieved in practice
- CoCoMar uses co-existence and co-location as a unifying lens in which to approach the themes of:
  - Fisheries management in a post-Brexit world;
  - Cross compliance of marine sectors governed by Maritime Spatial Planning;
  - **Expanding Marine Protected Area networks; and**
  - Implementing nature restoration.

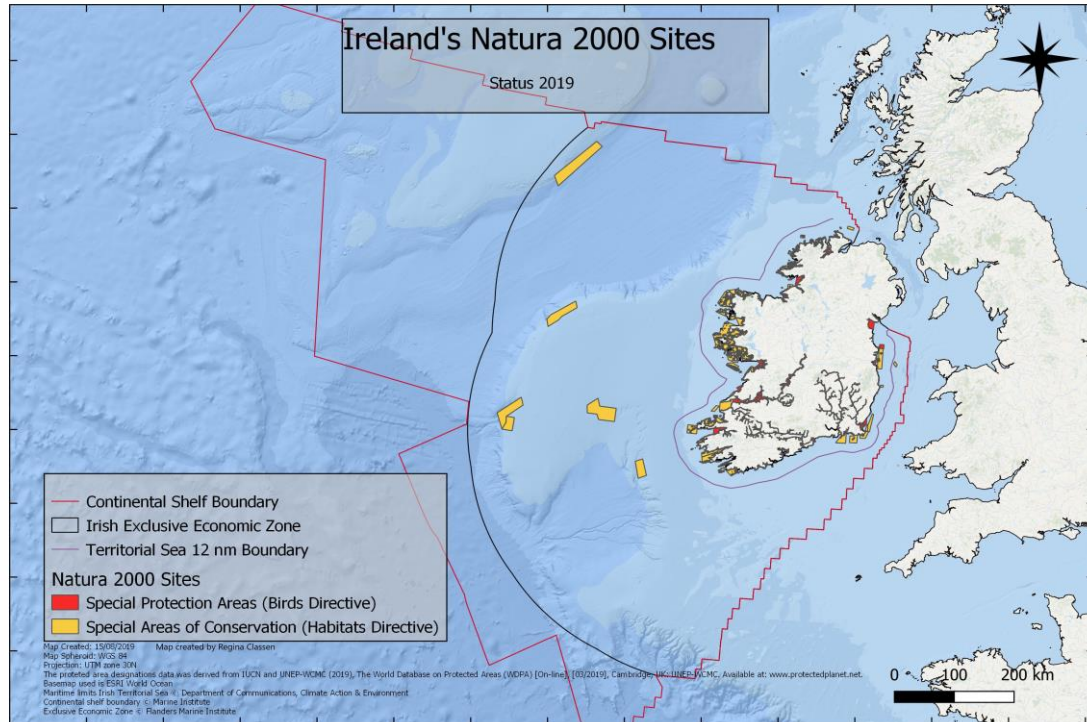


**CoCoMar**  
Enabling Co-existence and Co-location  
in Shared Island Marine Governance





# Current Irish MPA Network



Irish MPA network includes:

159 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs),

89 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and

19 OSPAR MPAs

**= 8.3% coverage**

- General Scheme of **Marine Protected Areas Bill 2022** was approved by Government on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- **Ecological sensitivity analysis** of the western Irish Sea to inform future designation of Marine Protected Areas conducted in 2023 and planned for the Celtic Sea.
- Lack of scientific knowledge could result in conservation actions and management interventions being **sub-optimal...**

# CoCoMar work on Irish MPAs



1. Produce **compatibility matrices** of different types of MPAs with different types of fisheries and offshore energy in the Irish EEZ;
2. Use compatibility matrix outputs to produce appropriate **future long-term management options** according to type of activity and MPA category;
3. Determine implications of the legal definition of **Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs)** for both the Republic and Northern Ireland and how existing legislation may already contribute;
4. Explore how OECMs could be identified, legally recognised, supported and reported;
5. Develop **advice** on monitoring compliance and minimum requirements for MPAs and OECMs building on tailoring existing guidance to transboundary contexts in cooperation with marine and coastal **stakeholders and regulators**.

# CoCoMar contribution to Mission Ocean



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## PROTECTS AND RESTORE COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

- Strengthens **links** with fisheries, energy, and other marine users and between policy areas such as Maritime Spatial Planning and Biodiversity.
- Provides pertinent and timely knowledge to support regulation and policy – **transferable lessons** for other EU countries and elsewhere.
- Builds and furthers **research capacity** in Ireland in the area of Oceans Law and Governance.
- Provides **opportunities to interact** with similar research projects in the EU and international working groups (e.g. ICES, OSPAR, OECD).



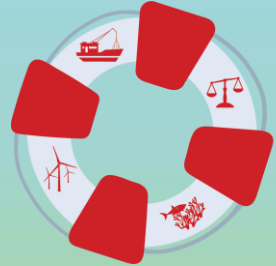


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*Thank you*

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