

**HARNESSING OUR OCEAN WEALTH Short-Medium and Ongoing Items**

**September – December 2013**

| Enabler           | No       | Key Actions   | Timing                 | Responsibility  | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|-------------------|----------|---|------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Governance</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>Develop and implement clear and forward-looking policies and strategies that support an increased contribution from our ocean economy to national GDP.</b>   | <b>See sub-actions</b> | <b>See sub-actions</b>                                | <b>(See actions 1a-1c)</b>  |
| Governance        | 1a       | Implement existing (e.g. Food Harvest 2020) and planned (e.g. Ports Policy, Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan) sectoral strategies/plans through effective coordination of actions across a range of government departments and agencies | Ongoing                | All departments and agencies involved with the marine | <p><b><u>DTTAS</u></b><br/>The National Ports Policy was published on 26 March 2013. Implementation of the new policy as per its implementation timelines has commenced. The Department has been engaged in a stakeholder consultation process throughout Q4 2013 in relation to the development of a new Harbours (Amendment) Bill which will put on a statutory basis elements of the new policy including improving the board appointment process and the transfer of Ports of Regional Significance to more suitable local authority led governance structures.</p> <p><b><u>Bord Iascaigh Mhara</u></b><br/>During the last quarter of 2013 the focus on encouraging and supporting the seafood processing sector to enhance competitiveness and grow sales through investment and market development continued. The key Programme elements are summarised at 16-17 below.</p> |
| Governance        | 1b       | Develop an integrated enterprise strategy to generate momentum in specific emerging market opportunities prepared across development agencies (e.g. offshore renewables, offshore services, ICT and sensors, biotechnology).                      | Short-Medium Term      | Development Task Force                                | <p><b><u>Development Task Force (DTF)</u></b><br/>On the 18th December the first meeting of the DTF took place. The Task Force is chaired by Robert Dix with Peter Heffernan (Marine Institute) as Vice Chair. The Task Force is comprised of 24 members spread across the industry, state and NGO sectors. Four sub-groups, linked to the terms of reference and associated HOOW actions, have been established with Chairs secured (EI, IDA, SFI &amp; CIL). Enterprise Ireland is chairing the Sub-Group related to this particular action.</p> <p>The DTF will meet on a monthly basis, providing regular reporting back to the MCG.</p>  |

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| Governance | 1c | Continue to develop new policies / strategies that address gap areas through an integrated approach.  | Ongoing         | Appropriate departments and agencies                        | <p><b>Marine Institute</b></p> <p>The Marine Biotechnology Task force was initiated in 2013 by the Marine Institute for the purpose of creating a vision and associated strategy for marine biotechnology RTDI in Ireland to support the continued development of Ireland's capabilities in marine biotechnology research; expand and intensify industry interaction with the research community; and advise the Marine Institute in the definition and implementation of activities which are supportive of national and international policy and strategic initiatives to derive economic returns from the exploitation of marine bioresources as reflected in the EU concept of a diverse and dynamic bio-economy. The task-force is led by independent Chairman (Eoin Sweeney) and comprises representatives from industry, the university sector, the IoTs, Teagasc and the Marine Institute. Since its inception the task-force has met 5 times. It is presently developing a draft strategy/briefing documents in advance of a holding a stakeholder meeting that will also inform the strategy for marine biotechnology.</p> |
| Governance | 2  | Develop an integrated approach to marine and coastal planning and licensing in order to maximise the potential for Ireland's ocean economy; assist with managing our resources effectively and sustainably; manage potential conflicts; and ensure harmonisation with coastal/terrestrial planning. | See sub-actions | See sub-actions   | (See actions 2a-2c)  |
| Governance | 2a | Address the deficiencies in the current planning and licensing system by continuing to make business process improvements; e.g. administrative efficiencies and licensing decisions to address the current caseload.  | Ongoing         | DECLG, DAFM, DCENR and appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b>DECLG</b></p> <p>The Department is continuing work on the development of the foreshore IT system which will automate case management and manage data capture and workflows. Work on Phase 2 of the project is on-going and involves the scanning of historical deeds and maps.</p> <p><b>DAFM - Sustainable Aquaculture</b></p> <p>To ensure compliance with environmental requirements and to avoid fines with particular reference to an ECJ judgement, aquaculture (Cont.)</p>  |

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| Governance (Cont.) | 2a | Address the deficiencies in the current planning and licensing system by continuing to make business process improvements; e.g. administrative efficiencies and licensing decisions to address the current caseload. | Ongoing           | DECLG, DAFM, DCENR and appropriate departments and agencies | <p>licensing in most bays, must be carried out in line with very specific requirements under the Birds and Habitats Directives. A large element of the judgment concerned a failure by the State to put in place adequate assessment of aquaculture licence applications in 'Natura 2000' areas. In the negotiations to address this judgment, a process was agreed with DG Environment (in 2009) and this is being implemented. The process includes data collection, the setting of Conservation Objectives, carrying out of Appropriate Assessments and appropriate licensing, taking account of, among other things, Natura requirements. The process is ongoing and has begun to achieve meaningful results in relation to the licensing of aquaculture.</p> <p>Out of a total of 137 aquaculture licence determinations made in 2013, 120 were in respect of sites in 'Natura' areas. It is expected that in the region of 200/250 aquaculture licensing determinations will be made in 2014. The Department looks forward to working closely with DAHG/NPWS in the on-going rollout of the aquaculture and wild fisheries work programme.</p> |
| Governance         | 2b | Update/improve legislation to streamline planning and consent processes.   | Short-Medium Term | DECLG<br>DAFM   | <p><b><u>DECLG</u></b><br/>In July 2013 the Government approved the General Scheme of the Maritime Area and Foreshore (Amendment) Bill. The General Scheme was published in October and was subjected to pre-legislative scrutiny by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht in November. The Committee reported on its deliberations in February 2014 and its findings are under consideration by the Department. Drafting of the Bill is being progressed with a view to publication in Q2 of 2014.</p> <p><b><u>DAFM - Sustainable Aquaculture</u></b><br/>See 2a above</p> <p><b><u>AGO</u></b><br/>AGO has provided advice to the DECLG on its proposal for draft Heads of a Maritime Area and Foreshore (Amendment) Bill.</p>   |

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| Enabler                          | No | Key Actions  | Timing            | Responsibility              | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
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| Governance                       | 2c | Develop an appropriate Maritime Spatial Planning Framework for Ireland within which the scope and objectives of an overarching national Marine Spatial Plan will be defined. Areas to be examined include: o emerging EU policy in relation to maritime spatial planning; o the need for any further legislative changes that may be required to support a national maritime spatial planning framework; o international best practice on developing integrated marine planning and licensing – benchmarking Ireland’s marine regulatory framework; and o a national maritime spatial planning capacity and responsibility for data coordination and exchange. This system will facilitate decision support through the visualisation of ecosystem features and existing and proposed activities in our ocean space. | Short-Medium Term | Enablers Task Force         | <p><b>AGO</b><br/>AGO has provided a report on the interaction between International law (UNCLOS) and EU Law.</p> <p><b>Enabler’s Task Force (ETF)</b><br/>The ETF delivered its Final Report and Recommendations to the MCG in November 2013. Deliberations are on-going within the MCG.</p>   |
| Maritime Security & Surveillance | 3  | <b>Develop and implement systems to provide real-time operating, surveillance and monitoring information on activity within Ireland’s maritime domain.</b>   | Short term        | DTTAS/ Coast Guard & DoD/NS | <p><b>DTTAS</b><br/>DTTAS is currently at an advanced tendering stage of a shared integrated call logging and analysis (SILAS) system that will eventually see the creation of a shared integrated maritime picture for non-security related coastal state activities. Additional advance has been made at an EU level. The Irish Maritime Administration (IMA) of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is partaking in a European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) sponsored project developing a maritime surveillance picture around all of EU waters. As part of that project the IMA is providing a variety of static and dynamic maritime surveillance data sources to EMSA for integration onto the IMDatE platform and feedback. (Both the Naval Service and Air Corps are currently applying for access to this project). The IMA is also examining how this HOOW objective can be further advanced</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p> |

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| Maritime Security & Surveillance<br><br>(Cont.) | 3  | Develop and implement systems to provide real-time operating, surveillance and monitoring information on activity within Ireland's maritime domain.                           | Short term | DTTAS/ Coast Guard & DoD/NS | <b>DEFENCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Naval Service has installed the Maritime Component Command (MCC), RMP (SITEAWARE) at the Naval Base Operations Centre and on two patrol vessels; Systems will be installed on remaining six vessels this year.</li> <li>Ireland is sharing information with EU Military at basic level requiring exchange of data files through an EDA project.</li> <li>The first milestone (baseline review) of Next Generation (NG) RMP project was completed September 2012, work will continue to deliver and integrate RMP for all areas of maritime responsibility.</li> <li>Ongoing development of the RMP project continues.</li> </ul> |
| Maritime Security & Surveillance                | 4  | Update national legislation code for an effective Irish Maritime Administration in accordance with national and international requirements.                                   | Ongoing    | DTTAS                       | <b>DTTAS</b><br>Work is progressing in relation to the updating of maritime legislation.   |
| Maritime Security & Surveillance                | 5  | Implement effective flag and port state inspection regimes and improved enforcement of existing regulation, including new regulation standards emanating from the EU and IMO. | Ongoing    | DTTAS                       | <b>DTTAS</b><br>Implementation continues for flag State with new international merchant ships, domestic ships and fishing vessels entering the flag, in-service flag State implementation is continuing and Ireland continues to implement the port State control regimes. In particular Irish ships have been issued with Statements of Compliance with the ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 by the 20th of August 2013.  |
| Maritime Security & Surveillance                | 6  | Maintain and improve Ireland's status on the international shipping benchmarks and use Ireland's positive status to promote shipping related enterprises                      | Ongoing    | DTTAS                       | <b>DTTAS</b><br>Ireland has maintained its position on the latest Paris MoU "White List" effective from 1st July 2013. Ireland remains on the IMO STCW "White List" for seafarer training.   |

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| Clean-Green-Marine | 9  | <p><b>Implement the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out an initial assessment and related works required under the MSFD in order to provide an accurate picture of the environmental status of our marine waters;</li> <li>• Set appropriate targets in the pursuit of good environmental status; and</li> <li>• Develop an Atlas of the Irish Marine Environment, which will include the collation of all relevant information into a central GIS. This will be an important tool underpinning decisions on policies and actions to protect biodiversity and act as a stepping-stone to future, long-term measures (e.g. in the development of a National Marine Habitat Map and a Maritime Spatial Plan).</li> </ul> | Short-Medium Term | DECLG in association with other appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b><u>DECLG</u></b></p> <p>The Marine Strategy Framework Directive project is funded by DECLG and is managed by the Marine Institute. The project is overseen by a Technical Working Group comprising experts from relevant Government Departments and agencies. The project will run for three years (from Feb. 2012) and will support delivery of all technical aspects of the Directive up to and including development of a monitoring programme for the on-going assessment of the environmental status of Irish marine waters. The Marine Institute has employed the services of the RPS Group to assist with the work. In addition, the EPA has a number of substantial research projects underway to support implementation of the Directive.</p> <p>Work on the Initial Assessment (Articles 8), the determination of Good Environmental Status (Article 9) and the establishment of Environmental Targets (Article 10) has been completed and uploaded to the Commission website (EIONET), and Ireland has met its obligations in that regard. To further facilitate public participation a national report which provides narrative information on the status of Irish marine waters has also been prepared and was published on 1 November 2013 along with Ireland’s Marine Atlas. The Atlas is an interactive map viewer that allows users to view a range of data within the marine environment. The narrative report has been notified to the Commission.</p> <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b></p> <p>Ireland’s Marine Atlas, which incorporates all the spatially relevant data and information compiled or identified during the Initial Assessment process for the MSFD, is now hosted in the Marine Institute and is available online at <a href="http://atlas.marine.ie">http://atlas.marine.ie</a> . A project to upgrade the Atlas for cross-platform compatibility (incl. mobile) is scheduled for 2014. Ongoing maintenance of the data will be carried out by the Marine Institute on behalf of DECLG.</p> <p>In late 2013, the MI linked requirements of new data collection framework (SOP under the EMFF) to incorporate additional work that will deliver MSFD obligations.</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p> |

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| Clean-Green-Marine (Cont.) | 9  | <p>Implement the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out an initial assessment and related works required under the MSFD in order to provide an accurate picture of the environmental status of our marine waters;</li> <li>• Set appropriate targets in the pursuit of good environmental status; and</li> <li>• Develop an Atlas of the Irish Marine Environment, which will include the collation of all relevant information into a central GIS. This will be an important tool underpinning decisions on policies and actions to protect biodiversity and act as a stepping-stone to future, long-term measures (e.g. in the development of a National Marine Habitat Map and a Maritime Spatial Plan).</li> </ul> | Short-Medium Term | DECLG in association with other appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b>DAHG</b></p> <p>DAHG is working closely with DECLG and MI to support the development of options for GES targets and indicators for marine mammals.</p>   |
| Clean-Green-Marine         | 10 | <p>Deliver all measures relevant to Ireland as directed under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and national measures including the conservation, management and rebuilding of fish stocks and long-term sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources.</p>  | Short-Medium Term | DAFM   | <p><b>DAFM - Reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy</b></p> <p>The newly reformed CFP, brokered by the Irish Presidency and due to come into force from the 1st of January 2014, will allow for the rebuilding of fish stocks in European waters and will allow for significant quota increases for Irish fishermen through long term management of stocks, reducing and eliminating discards where possible and rebuilding stocks to Maximum Sustainable Yield. All of these measures hold the potential to substantially increase catches by Irish fishermen over time. The reforms agreed will govern the nature and operation of Irish and EU fisheries for the foreseeable future and are designed to usher in a new era of more economically, environmentally and socially sustainable fishing across EU waters.</p> <p>Preparations for the implementation of the specific elements of the new CFP relevant to Ireland are now being put in place, specifically with the establishment of the national Discards Implementation Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Noel Cawley. The purpose of this group consisting of industry &amp; DAFM as well as representatives from the Marine Institute,</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p> |

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| <p><b>Clean-Green-Marine</b><br/><br/>(Cont.)</p> | <p><b>10</b></p> | <p><b>Deliver all measures relevant to Ireland as directed under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and national measures including the conservation, management and rebuilding of fish stocks and long-term sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources</b></p> | <p><b>Short-Medium Term</b></p> | <p><b>DAFM</b></p> | <p>BIM &amp; the SFPA is to prepare the Irish fleet for the phased introduction of the U wide discards ban. In addition Ireland hosted the first meeting of Director generals of Fisheries from Member says that operate in North Western Waters. It is this group that will prepare specific discard plans to the Commission under the Regionalisation of the CFP.</p> <p>Consultation commenced in August on proposed adaptations to conservation measures for lobster &amp; shrimp stocks. The proposals are aimed at improving sustainability of the stocks based on advice received from the marine agencies. Maintaining healthy stocks of commercially exploited fish &amp; shellfish is also one of the qualitative descriptors for determining good environmental status under the MSFD. <b><u>DAFM - National Measures</u></b></p> <p>Consultation was conducted in the autumn on proposed adaptations to conservation measures for lobster &amp; shrimp stocks. The proposals are aimed at improving sustainability of the stocks based on advice received from the marine agencies. Maintaining healthy stocks of commercially exploited fish &amp; shellfish is also one of the qualitative descriptors for determining good environmental status under the MSFD. Over 200 submissions were received and DAFM is currently reviewing the appropriate measures to be introduced in light of the wide range of views submitted by the industry. It is intended to publish the consultation report in Q1.</p> <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b></p> <p>Qtr 4 2013 included work on implementing the new CFP discard ban and supporting the new discard implementation group (chaired by N. Cawley). Input was also provided to the sustainability assessment to the Oireachtas Committee.</p> <p>In December, the MI published the 2013 Stock Book which informed management decisions on fishing opportunities for the Irish fishing fleet in 2014 and was key to fisheries negotiations with the EU in Dec. This year, advice was given for 59 stocks. Results show that 34% of the stocks were fished at sustainable levels, while 24% were fished above these levels and 42% were fished at unknown levels.</p> |

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| Clean-Green-Marine | 11 | Continue to implement the EU Water Framework Directive through the River Basin Management Plans.  | Short-Medium Term   | DECLG with other appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b>DECLG</b></p> <p>Ireland's 1<sup>st</sup> cycle River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) under the WFD were finalised in Q3 2010. Implementation of the plans was delegated to Local Authorities and it has been decided that, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle, an improved governance structure is needed. The Directive requires 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle RBMPs to be prepared by end-2015 and Ireland is engaging with stakeholders on this process.</p> <p>A new 3-tiered governance arrangement has been agreed in principle between DECLG, the EPA and the County and City Managers' Association (CCMA). Tier 1 is a high-level management group drawn from key Departments, agencies and authorities; Tier 2 will be led by the EPA and will focus on technical implementation and reporting; Tier 3 will focus on regional implementation of the WFD. The details of how this new governance arrangement will work are currently being refined.</p> <p>The European Commission raised 9 grounds of possible infringement in terms of Ireland's implementation of the WFD, in 2007, and 6 of those are now effectively resolved. Ireland continues to engage with the Commission on how best to address remaining issues.</p> |
| Clean-Green-Marine | 12 | Continue to implement EU Natura 2000 legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the preparation of management plans to facilitate sustainable development (e.g. aquaculture, offshore energy); and</li> <li>• Complete the designation process for marine SACs (2012) and SPAs (2014).</li> </ul> | Ongoing-Medium Term | DAHG with other appropriate departments and agencies  | <p><b>DAHG</b></p> <p>Site-specific conservation objectives now published for 68 marine Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>A new document entitled "Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters" was published by the Department. This is designed to support improved decision-making by Public Bodies.</p> <p><b>Marine Institute</b></p> <p>In Qtr 4 2013, a risk management framework was established for the Irish Sea Fisheries to assist Natura Management Plans in the Irish Sea.</p>  |
| Clean-Green-Marine | 13 | Climate Change  | See Sub-Actions     | See Sub- Actions                                      |   |

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| Clean-Green-Marine | 13a | Maintain and where appropriate, expand key marine observations/sentinel sites for Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) as endorsed by the UNFCCC Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). Such measurements (collected, quality assessed and analysed on an on-going basis) are essential to support improved regional modelling, scenario development, forecasting and climate impact risk assessment. | Ongoing | EPA with other appropriate agencies                         | <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b><br/>All temperature and salinity profile data collected in 2013 were submitted to the ICES Data Centre in early 2014. The MI continues to deliver elements of this action by leveraging existing activities and programmes as efficiently as feasible.</p> <p><b><u>DAFM</u></b><br/>The Department has commenced preparation of its sectoral adaption plan under National Adaptation Framework and sectoral roadmap required under the Low Carbon Bill. Each of the Department’s marine agencies has been requested to participate in the drafting process with a view to preparing a composite for public consultation at the end of Q1 2014.</p> |
| Clean-Green-Marine | 14  | <b>Implement Ireland’s National Biodiversity Plan “Actions for Biodiversity, 2011-2016”, to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.</b>  | Ongoing | <b>DAHG with other appropriate departments and agencies</b> | <p><b><u>DAHG</u></b><br/>Implementation of Ireland’s biodiversity plan is on-going across Government Departments and agencies. A recent meeting of the National Biodiversity Working Group, which oversees the implementation of the plan, highlighted progress on number of the Plan’s key activities. In 2014, the Department, with the support of the Working Group, will undertake a mid-term review of progress on the Plan’s key objectives.</p>   |

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| <p><b>Business Development, Marketing &amp; Promotion</b></p> | <p><b>16</b></p> | <p><b>Strengthen and develop a common message and theme that promotes Irish marine products and services using high standards of environmental compliance (the 'Clean Green' brand).</b></p> | <p><b>Short-Medium-Long Term</b></p> | <p><b>Development Task Force, EI, IDA, Bord Bia</b></p> | <p><b><u>DJEI</u></b><br/>Enterprise Ireland recognises the importance of the Clean Green brand and supports this common message for products and services.</p> <p><b><u>Development of BIM Green Seafood business Programme.</u></b><br/>The aims of this Programme are twofold namely to drive competitiveness in the operations in processing companies and to underpin environmental sound practices. In Qtr 4 BIM recruited 12 firms for the Green Seafood Business programme. BIM is working with Bord Bia to devise a method by which companies successfully completing the Programme will be eligible to comply with Origin Green</p> <p><b><u>Bord Bia</u></b><br/>Bord Bia continues to promote its Origin Green sustainability programme that evidences the environmental impact of its members (energy, emissions and waste are mandatory dimensions) in addition to other measures of sustainability. There are now 8 seafood processors verified by SGS as full members and a further five companies have submitted plans for verification. There are an additional 27 more seafood companies at the preliminary stages of either attending workshops or developing initial plans. Communications are being rolled out to the trade in all key export markets as membership builds. Work is currently underway with the pelagic sector to bring them into the programme.</p> <p><b><u>Development Task Force</u></b><br/>See update provided under Action 1b. IDA is chairing the Sub-Group related to this particular action.</p> |

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| <p><b>Business Development, Marketing &amp; Promotion</b></p> | <p>17</p> | <p>Give a clear message to investors that Ireland is ‘open for, and a good place to do, marine business’ domestically and internationally and continue to market and promote business opportunities associated with the marine through the IDA, EI, IMDO Bord Bia, BIM, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland.</p> | <p>Short-Medium-Long Term</p> | <p>Development Task Force, IDA, EI, IMDO, Bord Bia, BIM, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland</p> | <p><b><u>DTTAS/Fáilte Ireland</u></b><br/>                     Fáilte Ireland represented on the FLAGs and the NIB under the current programme.</p> <p><b><u>IMDO</u></b> – see 18 below.</p> <p><b><u>DJEI</u></b><br/>                     Ireland’s membership of the European Space Agency (ESA) provides significant opportunities to develop a vibrant downstream services industry in areas such as maritime surveillance and marine environmental monitoring. With ESA’s support, Irish companies and researchers are developing innovative maritime services using satellite-derived data in these areas. One example of success in this area is TechWorks Marine, an EI client company which has been working with ESA developing value added Earth Observation products for a range of clients, using live in-situ data for validation notably in the area of Jellyfish and Storm Surge forecasting. The company has secured a contract to lead an ESA research project on monitoring coastal outlets. This is the first time an ESA Earth Observation project has been led by an Irish group. The project was secured with support from Enterprise Ireland which is the co-ordinating body for ESA in Ireland.</p> <p><b>See Copernicus at Action 36b</b></p> <p>On 23 September 2013, an Irish online service that monitors water quality for the aquaculture industry has been selected as this year’s most beneficial Earth-monitoring service for European citizens in the Copernicus Masters competition. Following an online vote, HAB Forecast– Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast – won in the category of Best Service Challenge. The service provides a weekly web bulletin alerting fish farmers and regulators of these harmful blooms. It is the first forecast system of this kind, designed to combine information from in-situ monitoring stations, satellite data, and biological and physical oceanic models. The service was submitted by Julie Maguire from the Daithi O’Murchu Marine Research Station, Ireland.</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p> |

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| <p><b>Business Development, Marketing &amp; Promotion (cont.)</b></p> | <p>17</p> | <p>Give a clear message to investors that Ireland is 'open for, and a good place to do, marine business' domestically and internationally and continue to market and promote business opportunities associated with the marine through the IDA, EI, IMDO Bord Bia, BIM, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland.</p> | <p>Short-Medium-Long Term</p> | <p>Development Task Force, IDA, EI, IMDO, Bord Bia, BIM, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland</p> | <p><b>DAFM - Seafood Development &amp; Innovation. BIM/ Seafood Development Centre (SDC) Activity</b><br/>                     In Qtr. 4 BIM has made a significant investment in pilot equipment at the SDC as part of the development work on blue whiting. The work involved assessing options to use the species in consumer ready formats and in formed fish products for the food service trade. Trials on pilot scale new product development were carried out. This programme will continue to evolve in 2014. The SDC continued to work with Keohanes Seafoods Ltd., a Cork based whitefish processor, on developing its product range. In Qtr 4 the company has succeeded in securing a listing with a major UK retailer to supply two new frozen seafood products from the companies range. The products are steam-cooked in their natural juices ideal for the health conscious consumer. The company has developed an innovative skin-film packing method which is the first of its kind in Europe. Further developments underway in Qtr 4 include trials using new technology to enhance product shelf life. The company will create four new jobs to fulfil the UK order bringing the total number employed to 44 at its facility in the south west.</p> <p><b>Investment in value add development in Seafood 2013</b><br/>                     There were nine projects supported under this scheme in 2013 with a total project spend of €236,195 through which companies were assisted to develop new innovative seafood products. Some examples of projects supported by the SDC under this scheme included: (1) Fastnet Catch, Co. Cork, which was seeking to expand the existing product range and produced a new gluten free cod and hake fish cake with a range of flavours eg garlic, herbs etc. (2) Irish Atlantic Sea Salt, Co. Cork undertook a feasibility study on developing a new Irish sea salt product infused with a range of seaweeds. (3) Sofrimar Ltd, Co. Wexford, developed a whelk meat product in brine in a jar for the French market and a cooked whelk meat product for the Japanese market.</p> <p><b>The Seafood Processing Business Investment Scheme 2013.</b><br/>                     The seafood processing sector generated 105 new jobs on the ground in 2013 arising from investments under this Scheme in 2011 and 2012. Of the 25 applications received in 2013 under this Programme, 21<br/>                     (Cont.)</p> |

HARNESSING OUR OCEAN WEALTH Short-Medium and Ongoing Items

September – December 2013

| Enabler   | No | Key Actions  | Timing                 | Responsibility   | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|---|----|--|------------------------|--|--|
| Business Development, Marketing & Promotion (cont.) | 17 | Give a clear message to investors that Ireland is 'open for, and a good place to do, marine business' domestically and internationally and continue to market and promote business opportunities associated with the marine through the IDA, EI, IMDO Bord Bia, BIM, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland. | Short-Medium-Long Term | Development Task Force, IDA, EI, IMDO, Bord Bia, BIM, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland | <p>lower than anticipated drawdown arose from challenges facing the companies in obtaining financing from the banks for their projects as well as the timing constraints imposed by the programme. A number of the companies impacted by the time constraints have reapplied for support under the 2014 Programme and these applications are currently being assessed.</p> <p><b>Development Task Force</b><br/>See update provided under Action 1b. IDA is chairing the Sub-Group related to this particular action.</p> <p><b>Marine Institute</b><br/>As a follow up to the successful SmartOcean Forum in Belfast (November 2013), the Marine Institute commenced organising an Ireland Pavilion at Oceanology International 2014 (OI2014). The Ireland Pavilion will promote Irish products and services in the area of marine ICT and related ocean technologies, to the largest gathering of the international marine technology community (&gt;8000 attendees, 525 exhibitors). OI2014 will be held at London ExCeL, 11-13 March 2014. The Marine Institute reserved a 48m2 pavilion and launched a call for interested exhibitors late November. At the event 7 exhibitors will showcase their products and services at the exhibition (4 SME's, 1 HEI and 2 State programmes).</p> |
| Business Development, Marketing & Promotion         | 18 | Continue to market and develop Ireland as a world-class location for international shipping services   | Short-Medium-Long Term | IMDO   | <p><b>DTTAS/IMDO</b><br/>In November 2013 Dublin City Council adopted the North Lotts / Grand Canal Dock SDZ Planning Scheme which has as an objective the development of an International Shipping Services Centre within the SDZ.</p>  |

HARNESSING OUR OCEAN WEALTH Short-Medium and Ongoing Items

September – December 2013

| Enabler                                     | No | Key Actions  | Timing  | Responsibility   | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|----|--|---------|--|---|
| Business Development, Marketing & Promotion | 19 | <p>Encourage and facilitate coastal communities to avail of existing and future marine enterprise opportunities, e.g. through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training programmes</li> <li>• Business supports</li> <li>• Provision of specialist marketing and investment advice, market intelligence and consumer research.</li> </ul> | Ongoing | Local enterprise development boards, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland, BIM | <p><b><u>Bord Iascaigh Mhara</u></b><br/> <b>Increasing Raw material supply from foreign landings.</b><br/>                     The 2013 milestone Food Harvest 2020 to encourage four foreign vessels to land into Irish ports was achieved in 2013 and during the last quarter there was some 10 tonnes/per week of raw material coming from the Spanish vessels into the south west for processing and subsequent sale to a major retailer on the Spanish market.</p> <p><b><u>Údarás na Gaeltachta</u></b><br/>                     In terms of training, Údarás na Gaeltachta is expanding on initial work undertaken with BIM and Galway &amp; Roscommon Education &amp; Training Board to develop training programmes to support existing and new entrants to the aquaculture industry. Following a needs analysis a comprehensive plan will be prepared for the sector.</p> <p>From a business development point of view Údarás na Gaeltachta has supported a number of feasibility studies for seaweed related projects. They are broad in nature and are an indication of the growing attraction to develop seaweed based businesses. It is anticipated that the applicants will develop full business plans based on the studies.</p> <p>In 2012 six Fisheries Local Actions Groups (FLAGS) were announced and three of these are situated in the Gaeltacht with Údarás na Gaeltachta representation on the three Gaeltacht committees. They are actively seeking out and supporting coastal communities to develop a broad range of projects, including enterprise development.</p> <p>In the last quarter of 2013 over €210,000 was paid in grant aid to shellfish aquaculture projects under the Commercial Aquaculture Development Scheme (CADS) which will lead to increased production and employment in 2014. However, delays in the renewal of existing aquaculture licences means that each year less and less companies are eligible to supply for support under the CADS scheme and it is hindering expansion. Applications for new licences are equally hindered and therefore new entrants may not be able enter the market and investment is going elsewhere. While this issue has been highlighted in the past, it should be re-stated.</p> |

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| Enabler   | No               | Key Actions  | Timing                   | Responsibility                | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>Business Development, Marketing &amp; Promotion</b></p> | <p><b>20</b></p> | <p>Progress a number of targeted emerging business development opportunities (e.g. offshore renewables, offshore services, maritime security and safety, shipping logistics and transport, ICT and sensors, biotechnology). This would include the collection/collation of market intelligence and foresight and the promotion of clusters using SmartOcean and IMERC as vehicles for innovation-led commercial development.</p> | <p>Short-Medium Term</p> | <p>Development Task Force</p> | <p><b><u>DJEI</u></b><br/>Enterprise Ireland engages with the Industry group Marine Renewables Industry Association (MRIA) on the development of the sector and supports individual clients in the development of new technologies and products. Enterprise Ireland is also engaging with IMERC and the Marine Institute (SmartOcean) on building the cluster and optimising its commercial offering to the Maritime sector.</p> <p><b><u>Bord Iascaigh Mhara - Professional training BIM Seafood Graduate Programme.</u></b><br/>A new cohort of three Graduates was selected for the Seafood Graduate Programme 2013/14 during the last quarter and these will be placed in seafood companies between April and October 2014. Combined with the output from the last two years of this Programme, this will help drive professionalism and business skills in the seafood sector.</p> <p><b><u>BIM Guide to Personal Survival Techniques</u></b><br/>No update this quarter see previous quarters</p> <p><b><u>Development Task Force</u></b><br/>See update provided under Action 1b. Enterprise Ireland is chairing the Sub-Group related to this particular action.</p> <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b><br/>Through the SmartOcean initiative the Marine Institute/National Marine Technology Coordinator has been actively engaging with industry in the application of ICT to marine related sectors such as oil and gas, transport and security, marine renewable energy, environmental monitoring, tourism, aquaculture and fisheries etc. A selection of consultation processes have been initiated including sectoral strategy meetings with individual stakeholders and an online research and innovation strategy consultation. An industry consultation workshop also took place at the annual SmartOcean Forum which was held at Titanic Belfast this In</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p> |

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**September – December 2013**

| Enabler   | No               | Key Actions   | Timing                          | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|---|------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Business Development, Marketing &amp; Promotion (cont.)</b></p> | <p><b>20</b></p> | <p><b>Progress a number of targeted emerging business development opportunities (e.g. offshore renewables, offshore services, maritime security and safety, shipping logistics and transport, ICT and sensors, biotechnology). This would include the collection/collation of market intelligence and foresight and the promotion of clusters using SmartOcean and IMERC as vehicles for innovation-led commercial development.</b></p> | <p><b>Short-Medium Term</b></p> | <p><b>Development Task Force</b></p> | <p>November 2013. This Forum consisted of approximately 180 delegates and included participants from each Atlantic States such as the U.S., Canada, Norway, Spain, Portugal, and the U.K. There were approximately 20 organisations exhibiting also. This Forum was held in conjunction with Invest Northern Ireland who was the lead sponsors who are actively engaging with us to liaise with NI companies in this area. There have been a number of follow-ups, in particular further strategic development of business opportunities with our partners in Canada through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Additionally a number of partnerships are currently being explored with a number of MNCs and SMEs through the development of a business accelerator programme, proposals around trial licensing of technology, and the development of partnerships in targeted projects through national research calls (SFI Centres). In other areas, the Institute has been engaging with other agencies such as the Irish Air Corps in order to explore the development of enterprise initiatives and partnerships that may support that through the SmartOcean cluster.</p> |

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| Enabler                                      | No  | Key Actions   | Timing            | Responsibility  | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|--|-----|---|-------------------|---|--|
| Research, Knowledge, Technology & Innovation | 21  | Continue to fund strategic marine RTDI (industry, policy and discovery research) through cross-government/ agency collaboration across a range of national and international funding mechanisms.  | See sub-actions   | See sub-actions   | (See actions 21a-21c)  |
| Research, Knowledge, Technology & Innovation | 21a | Continue to implement Sea Change – A Marine Knowledge Research & Innovation Strategy for Ireland 2007-2013, taking account of the Report of the Research Prioritisation Steering Group (March 2012) and the relevant action plans (under development), that address marine opportunities; e.g. sustainable food production and processing, food for health and marine renewable energy. | Short-Medium Term | DAFM (MI) in association with relevant departments and agencies | <p><b><u>DAFM/Marine Institute</u></b></p> <p>In the quarter Oct-Dec 13, the evaluation process for the Shiptime Call 2014 was completed. A total of 25 applications were received requesting grant-aid funding onboard the National Research Vessels Celtic Explorer and Celtic Voyager. Subject to approval the grant-aid agreements will be issued in Q1 2014.</p> <p><i>In 2013, the Marine Institute funded research in</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Pacific Oysters Broodstock (Project co-funded by BIM)</i></li> <li>• <i>Marine Spatial Planning (research to support the work of the enablers task force)</i></li> <li>• <i>Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Ocean Acidification (co-funded by the EPA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Studentship : Stock Identification and Migration of Sea Bass in Irish Coastal Waters</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>DJEI</u></b></p> <p>In the context of implementation of research prioritisation through the Research Prioritisation Action Group, Action Plans have been developed for all Priority Areas including Sustainable Food Production, Food for Health and Marine Renewable Energy. In June 2013, Government agreed to the publication of these Action Plans. Implementation of the Action Plans is being monitored by the Prioritisation Action Group.</p> <p>The SFI-funded MaREI Research Centre was officially launched by Minister Sherlock at UCC on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The Marine Renewable Energy Ireland (MaREI) SFI Research Centre has the potential to position Ireland at the forefront of the marine renewable energy materials to endure ocean conditions, to offshore wind, wave and research sector globally. MaREI will conduct world-leading research on</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p> |

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| Enabler   | No  | Key Actions   | Timing            | Responsibility  | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|-----|---|-------------------|---|---|
| Research, Knowledge, Technology & Innovation<br><br>(Cont.) | 21a | Continue to implement Sea Change – A Marine Knowledge Research & Innovation Strategy for Ireland 2007-2013, taking account of the Report of the Research Prioritisation Steering Group (March 2012) and the relevant action plans (under development), that address marine opportunities; e.g. sustainable food production and processing, food for health and marine renewable energy.   | Short-Medium Term | DAFM (MI) in association with relevant departments and agencies | <p>all aspects of the marine renewable energy from marine robotics and marine energy devices as well as technologies to deliver power to the grid for electricity supply at home and abroad.</p> <p><b>DEFENCE</b><br/>NS/NMCI are partners/involved in the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic Power Cluster; ARCOPOL plus and NETMAR Projects.</li> <li>• Leanwind (FP7) Offshore Wind focused project – a “simulation in the loop” package that will develop new turbine, deployment vessel and crane simulation models that may be tested and deployed in NMCI.</li> <li>• MAREI Science Foundation Ireland proposal, has been successful meaning an investment of €25 million, for research and development in the maritime sector. Industry and academics will work side by side in the new UCC Beaufort Laboratory. Construction on the Beaufort Laboratory on the IMERC Campus in Ringaskiddy commenced in December 2013.</li> <li>• Skysails ‘kite’ technology is a project to save energy and increase maritime surveillance capability through sensor deployment. Supported by E.I. and SEAI.</li> </ul> |
| Research, Knowledge, Technology & Innovation                | 21b | Continue to implement research supporting increased hydrocarbon prospectivity through government-industry and international collaboration, supported by research teams in the third level sector across a range of national and international funding mechanisms (2012-2013), to address data, knowledge and specialised research capabilities to support and enable offshore exploration for indigenous oil and gas resources. | Ongoing           | DCENR   | <p><b>DCENR &amp; GSI</b><br/>DCENR linked Petroleum Infrastructure Programme committed to support SFI Centres bid for “Geoscience underpinning economic development”. GSI worked with 3<sup>rd</sup> Level researchers to develop proposal and source industrial sponsors.<br/>PIP also ran an open research call for petroleum related projects.</p> <p><b>DEFENCE.</b><br/>In the event of oil NHS (Harmful Noxious Substances) and inert spills during exploitation of indigenous oil and gas resources, the Atlantic Regions Coastal Pollution Response project will improve preparedness, response and mitigation capabilities of local and regional responders.<br/>The project Networked Systems for Situational Awareness and Intervention in Maritime Incidents will allow for the demonstration, evaluation and dissemination of new robotic systems, sensors and networking technologies in operational environments of maritime incidents endangering human life, the environment and economy</p>  |

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| Enabler                                      | No | Key Actions   | Timing            | Responsibility         | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|--|----|---|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| Research, Knowledge, Technology & Innovation | 23 | <p>Complete the INFOMAR seabed mapping programme, to provide data, products (e.g. databases, charts, physical habitat maps) and services (marine decision support tools) as critical inputs to maritime spatial planning and enablers of infrastructural development, research, education and value-added products. Further develop the role of INFOMAR in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of Irish graduates in latest techniques in seabed mapping, which are applicable world-wide;</li> <li>• Utilisation of data in major research projects; and</li> <li>• Development of collaborative added-value products through engagement with SMEs and the research community.</li> </ul> | Short-Medium Term | DCENR (GSI) and MI     | <p><b><u>DCENR (GSI) and Marine Institute</u></b></p> <p>INFOMAR completed the second external review of the programme, with a positive output. The Government committed to continued funding of INFOMAR to 2018.</p> <p>Added Value programme launched, coordinated by Dublin Business Innovation Centre, which will help develop three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training programme on INFOMAR seabed mapping</li> <li>• Development of apps/interactive web solutions</li> <li>• Educational materials for Primary and Second Level</li> </ul>  |
| Research, Knowledge, Technology & Innovation | 25 | <p>Support existing and new test-beds/facilities for demonstration and commercialisation purposes that promote Ireland as a test-bed for renewable energy technologies and ICT (SmartOcean) focusing on the development of innovative technologies that support real-time information gathering (e.g. for security, surveillance, environmental monitoring).</p>  | Short-Medium Term | Development Task Force | <p><b><u>Development Task Force</u></b></p> <p>See update provided under Action 1b. SFI are chairing the Sub-Group related to this particular action.</p> <p><b><u>DJEI</u></b></p> <p>One of the National Shared Facilities which PRTL Cycle 5 awards (value €4.05m) contributing to SmartBay is a national infrastructure for marine data collection and testing of next generation marine, communications and environmental technologies (based in Galway Bay).</p> <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Ocean Energy Test Site</u></b></p> <p>In Qtr 3 and 4 2013, the MI, SEAI and SmartBay have had a number of discussions with potential OE device developers with a view to deploying on site 2014.</p> <p><b><u>Galway Bay Cable Project</u></b></p> <p>Six tenders were issued in 2014 relating to the cable for the Galway Bay (Cont.)</p> |

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| Enabler  | No               | Key Actions   | Timing                          | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|--|------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Research, Knowledge, Technology &amp; Innovation (cont.)</b></p> | <p><b>25</b></p> | <p><b>Support existing and new test-beds/facilities for demonstration and commercialisation purposes that promote Ireland as a test-bed for renewable energy technologies and ICT (SmartOcean) focusing on the development of innovative technologies that support real-time information gathering (e.g. for security, surveillance, environmental monitoring).</b></p> | <p><b>Short-Medium Term</b></p> | <p><b>Development Task Force</b></p> | <p>test and demonstration platform. These included two ductwork and drilling contracts for the onshore portion of the cable. The civil works have been completed to a high standard and are awaiting review and sign off by Galway County Council.</p> <p>Four Invitations To Tender relating to the system were issued; for wet mateable connectors, the Cable End Equipment, dry mateable connectors and the trunk cable and cable termination. A road opening licence was granted for the onshore portion of the works. Planning permission has been granted for the Shore Station which will be located with the secondary school in Spiddal. Important education and outreach activities are planned with the school for 2014.</p> <p>The foreshore licence was submitted for the project – no objections were received during the public consultation or with prescribed bodies. The application has been forwarded to the Minister for consideration. The technical complexity of the infrastructure and available funding means that public procurement processes are challenging the timelines involved.</p> <p><b>SmartBay Ireland</b><br/>Four projects have been awarded funding under the SmartBay National Infrastructure Access Programme (NIAP) Activity II call. Projects from; NUI Galway (2 projects), the Tyndall National Institute and University College Cork will receive access to SmartBay facilities, data and support. SmartBay Ireland as part of a European consortium has received funding under the European FP7 programme to develop a wireless Marine Environmental Monitoring analysis technology. A “Multidisciplinary Offshore Operations in Marine Science &amp; Technology” module has been developed by SmartBay and is being delivered as part of the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology SMART Sea School Programme.</p> |

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| Enabler                                   | No | Key Actions   | Timing          | Responsibility          | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|----|---|-----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Capacity, Education, Training & Awareness | 26 | Plan for the appropriate human resources to be in place to efficiently and effectively meet the current demands and capture the future opportunities in relation to our ocean wealth. | Ongoing         | Appropriate departments | <p><b>DJEI</b></p> <p>SFI currently funds one Investigator Award that aims to model ocean waves, their energy potential and their interactions with wave energy converters, and one Investigator Award that aims to predict the wave energy-potential of the Irish offshore environment. Both projects aim to provide modelling frameworks to support the production of ocean wave energy and to train several PhD students in the field.</p> <p>Over the 6 years of its SFI funding award, the MaREI Research Centre (see 21a) will train 51 PhD students and 15 postdocs. For MSc students, the MaREI investigators have set-up an All-Island Marine Renewable Energy Master's Programme. This Master's programme is the only one of its kind in the world, educating engineers for successful careers in the marine renewables industry. The MSc students gain advanced engineering skills in areas such as wave energy, tidal energy and power systems as well as relevant non-technical expertise in areas such as geological surveying and environmental impact assessment, whilst industry placement hosts benefit from access to cutting-edge expertise in marine renewables, as well as an opportunity to develop existing projects and new R&amp;D ideas. 12 students are currently doing the Master's Programme, and the first industry placement programme will run from June 2014 to September 2014.</p> |
| Capacity, Education, Training & Awareness | 27 | Maintain and build capacity (people) to meet the needs of the maritime sector; e.g. through tailored education and training programmes and research capacity building.                | See sub-actions | See sub-actions         | (See actions 27a-27d)   |

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| Enabler                                   | No  | Key Actions   | Timing            | Responsibility                            | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|-----|---|-------------------|---|---|
| Capacity, Education, Training & Awareness | 27a | Identify future skills needs and labour market supply and demand trends in the marine area;   | Short-Medium Term | DJEI , DES (Forfás – Future Skills Group) | <p><b>DJEI</b><br/>A formal request was made from Minister Coveney to Ministers Quinn and Bruton for EGFSN for EGFSN to identify the future skills need. EGFSN have included this request in their work programme for 2014.</p> <p><b>DEFENCE</b><br/>Due to increased demand in RDT&amp;I NMCI has included a Research element to encourage and support research and development in the maritime sector.</p> <p>NMCI Research has been rebranded as the Halpin research centre with the NS heavily involved in EU funded projects.</p>   |
| Capacity, Education, Training & Awareness | 27c | Encourage utilisation of employment and training programmes (e.g. Job Bridge and Springboard) that offer the necessary training and up-skilling for marine personnel, taking account of local employment needs and opportunities; and | Ongoing           | Appropriate departments and agencies      | <p><b>DEFENCE</b><br/>NMCI &amp; IMERC are fully engaged with both Job Bridge and Springboard Programmes</p>  |
| Capacity, Education, Training & Awareness | 27d | Continue to build marine research capacity and capability through targeted national and international research funding.   | Ongoing           | Appropriate departments and agencies      | <p><b>DJEI</b><br/>Research Prioritisation Action Group, Action Plans have been developed for all Research Priority Areas (including sustainable food production and processing, food for health and marine renewable energy) and the development of human capital and researcher skillsets have been captured as actions therein. In June 2013, Government agreed to the publication of these Action Plans. Implementation of the Action Plans is being monitored by the Prioritisation Action Group. Update?</p> <p><b>Science Foundation Ireland</b> REPEAT OF ABOVE TEXT UNDER ACTION 26 – BETTER TO JUST CROSS REFERENCE MAYBE?<br/>SFI currently funds one Investigator Award that aims to model ocean waves, their energy potential and their interactions with wave energy converters, and one Investigator Award that aims to predict the wave energy-potential of the Irish offshore environment. Both projects aim to provide modelling frameworks to support the production of ocean wave energy and to train several PhD students in the field.<br/><b>(Cont.)</b></p> |

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| Enabler   | No  | Key Actions   | Timing  | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|-----|---|---------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Capacity, Education, Training & Awareness (cont.) | 27d | Continue to build marine research capacity and capability through targeted national and international research funding. | Ongoing | Appropriate departments and agencies | <p>As per Action 26 above, over the 6 years of its SFI funding award, the MaREI Research Centre (see 21a) will train 51 PhD students and 15 postdocs. For MSc students, the MaREI investigators have set-up an All-Island Marine Renewable Energy Master's Programme. This Master's programme is the only one of its kind in the world, educating engineers for successful careers in the marine renewables industry. The MSc students gain advanced engineering skills in areas such as wave energy, tidal energy and power systems as well as relevant non-technical expertise in areas such as geological surveying and environmental impact assessment, whilst industry placement hosts benefit from access to cutting-edge expertise in marine renewables, as well as an opportunity to develop existing projects and new R&amp;D ideas. 12 students are currently doing the Master's Programme, and the first industry placement programme will run from June 2014 to September 2014.</p> <p><b><u>DEFENCE</u></b></p> <p>The following projects have been initiated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated Maritime Promotion Action (IMPACT) promotes the use of ICT and e-learning methods for maritime vocational education and training.</li> <li>• Marine Learning Network (MARLEANET). The implementation of a maritime training network for sectors such as fishery, merchant navy, Navy and offshore activities</li> <li>• Development of common training programs and e-learning platform for public and private sectors, maritime companies and institutions which meets new teaching and seafarers' requirements.</li> <li>• Maritime English Learning (MARTELPUS). Using the standards already created for Officers in the MARTEL project, the MARTEL Plus project will create an additional standard for Maritime English at foundation level for Ratings (Phase R).</li> </ul> <p>(Cont.)</p> |

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| Enabler   | No  | Key Actions   | Timing              | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|-----|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Capacity, Education, Training & Awareness (Cont.) | 27d | Continue to build marine research capacity and capability through targeted national and international research funding.   | Ongoing             | Appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b><br/>Initial meetings and collaborations were established to exploit the opportunities presented by Horizon 2020. The Institute has also been active in the formulation and submission of the Atlantic Centre for Earth Observations (ACEObs) proposal to Science Foundation Ireland, in collaboration with a number of HEIs, Teagasc and industry. The proposal has passed the pre-proposal stage and has been invited for full submission. The MI is actively engaged on the development of the platform and spoke research of this proposal. It is also mobilising and actively engaging with the SmartOcean Cluster in order to develop a number of targeted spoke projects.</p> <p><b><u>DAHG</u></b><br/>DAHG organised a workshop for public officials, researchers, and the general public entitled “Financing Natura 2000” that provided details about how to maximise and integrate the utilisation of EU funding streams to finance work required in support of the Natura 2000 network</p> |
| Capacity, Education, Training & Awareness         | 28  | Establish Ireland as an international marine training destination, maximising the capacity and potential of existing marine training facilities/programmes (e.g. BIM training, IMERC, Ryan Institute, NMCI, ship-based SMART initiative, private training operators); and integrate into national initiatives such as Education in Ireland. | Ongoing-Medium Term | Development Task Force               | <p><b><u>Enterprise Ireland</u></b><br/>Enterprise Ireland is engaging with NMCI and IMERC on Maritime Training technology theme.</p> <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b><br/>In 2013, the Strategic Marine Alliance for Research and Training (SMART) delivered a number of high-quality, offshore educational programmes, in an efficient, cost effective manner including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and delivery of 18 seagoing training courses delivered to 194 undergraduate and postgraduate students over 36 days at sea;</li> <li>• Securing the tender to deliver on the Training and Education WP of Eurofleets II; and</li> <li>• Building international recognition as a leader in offshore education and training through continued involvement in European funded consortiums (e.g. Eurofleets), and alliances with world-class research institutes (Alfred Wegner Institute, Germany).</li> </ul> <p>(Cont.)</p>  |

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| Enabler   | No | Key Actions  | Timing              | Responsibility         | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|----|--|---------------------|------------------------|---|
| Capacity, Education, Training & Awareness (Cont.) | 28 | Establish Ireland as an international marine training destination, maximising the capacity and potential of existing marine training facilities/programmes (e.g. BIM training, IMERC, Ryan Institute, NMCI, ship-based SMART initiative, private training operators); and integrate into national initiatives such as Education in Ireland | Ongoing-Medium Term | Development Task Force | <p>Training and associated sea-time increased from 2012 with a doubling of the total number of students training (105 to 211) and 40% more days at sea (21 to 38). The SMART team continues to review options for multi-</p> <p><b><u>DEFENCE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMERC provides co-located industry suites, incubation units, networking and brokering programmes, innovation partnerships and joint ventures. An industry-centered approach is used to develop an ecosystem of innovation that will yield Intellectual Property, High Potential Start Up Companies and jobs in Ireland’s Smart Economy.</li> <li>• New opportunities exist in the development of niche products and services targeted towards global growth sectors such as marine renewable energy, shipping, logistics &amp; transport, marine tourism &amp; recreation, maritime security, maritime training, and maritime Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) which IMERC will target.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NMCI provide Degree and Certificate Nautical Science/Studies programmes</li> <li>○ A range of Commercial and professional courses – i.e. Renewables; Petrochemical, Simulation; management and team building;</li> <li>○ A range of evening courses e.g. BSC Bisomess &amp; Transport Management</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Development Task Force</u></b><br/>See update provided under Action 1b. CIL are chairing the Sub-Group related to this particular action.</p> |

**HARNESSING OUR OCEAN WEALTH Short-Medium and Ongoing Items**

**September – December 2013**

| Enabler        | No | Key Actions   | Timing  | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|----------------|----|---|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Infrastructure | 31 | Maximise the utilisation of existing state maritime infrastructure (e.g. research vessels, coastal access points) through multi-purpose usage and sharing, in support of operational programmes, research, test and demonstration and monitoring. | Ongoing | Appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b><u>DCENR (GSI) and Marine Institute</u></b><br/>                     INFOMAR vessels utilised by National Monuments in the investigation of Burtonport Shipwreck.</p> <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b><br/>                     The Marine Institute successfully completed a month long ROV inspection survey with the Holland 1 ROV using the ILV Granuaile. This project has given both organisations high levels of experience in the completion of this type of work and the organisations are working together to secure future projects of this type.</p> <p>Data from Ireland’s weather buoy network continues to receive significant attention and access (via MI website) from a range of users e.g. surfers/other marine recreational users, researchers, Local Authorities and other State agencies).</p> <p>Further information on marine data infrastructure is highlighted in Action 33.</p> <p><b><u>DAHG</u></b><br/>                     DAHG is currently rolling out pilot project with the Marine Institute to explore the value of using selected fisheries cruises undertaken by the national research vessels to implement marine mammal monitoring for the Habitats Directive.</p> |

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**September – December 2013**

| Enabler        | No | Key Actions   | Timing  | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|----------------|----|---|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Infrastructure | 32 | Put in place clear integrated policies and strategies for the development of new key strategic infrastructures to support job creation and economic growth (e.g. the grid and port infrastructure to support renewable energy and export potential) | Ongoing | Appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b>DAFM</b></p> <p>The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine supports the ongoing development of ‘Fishery Harbour Centres’ at Killybegs, Ros an Mhíl, Dingle, Castletownbere, Dunmore East and Howth with funding from its annual Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Development Programme. Under the 2013 Programme €5.178 million was spent on development, maintenance and upgrading works at each of the state owned Fishery Harbour Centres. Major works included the completion of a new slipway at Dunmore East FHC, the Dingle Marina Pontoon replacement project and the completion of phase 1 of the Electrical Upgrade in Howth. €570k has been expended for reconstruction and maintenance works at other harbours managed by the Department. In addition €2.75 million was paid for harbour development works at over 60 Local Authority owned piers and harbours located in 13 coastal counties.</p> <p>In 2013 for the first time the Minister funded a Marine Leisure and Marine Tourism Capital Infrastructure Development Programme under the annual Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Programme. The new Programme provided a further mechanism to support Local Authorities in maintaining and enhancing coastal facilities and provided support for the maintenance and development of marine tourism/marine leisure facilities at Local Authority piers and harbours. Funding in the amount of €890k was paid to the Local Authorities for this programme.</p> <p><b>DTTAS</b> – see 34f below.</p> |

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**September – December 2013**

| Enabler        | No | Key Actions  | Timing  | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|----------------|----|--|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Infrastructure | 33 | Securely store all publicly funded marine data (e.g. seabed mapping, monitoring, research and scientific data) and where appropriate make available, as easily and freely as possible, in compliance with existing standards (e.g. INSPIRE) for multi-purpose usage (e.g. for research, governance, maritime spatial planning and commercial development purposes). Leverage for value-added purposes, including links to key EU projects in this area, such as, the EMODNET initiative. | Ongoing | Appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b><u>DCENR &amp; GSI</u></b><br/>The 2013 survey data and relevelled historic surveys have been made available via <a href="http://www.INFOMAR.IE">www.INFOMAR.IE</a></p> <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b><br/>MI has been active in both EMODNET and the Copernicus Marine Service throughout 2013 and sits on the Marine Observations and Data Expert Group (MODEG) of DG MARE. Late 2013 saw the completion of the ASIMUTH project which demonstrated a harmful algal bloom forecasting service along the European Atlantic Coast. ASIMUTH, an Irish led EU Framework 7 funded project (FP7), was awarded the COPERNICUS (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) Masters Prize for best earth-monitoring service for European citizens 2013. The pan-European project developed an online alert system (HAB Forecast) to provide an early warning to the aquaculture industry of imminent harmful algal blooms (red tides). ASIMUTH is led by the Daithi O’Murchu Marine Research Station (Bantry) and involves scientists and SMEs from five European Atlantic States (Ireland, Scotland, France, Spain and Portugal). Irish partners include the Marine Institute and Irish SMES: Nowcasting Ltd (Clare) and Numerics Warehouse Ltd (Galway).</p> <p>In Qtr 4 2013, The Marine Institute is making a range of marine data generally available for reuse including for applications such as marine research, development and governance. This includes through its website including a new data download portal (<a href="http://data.marine.ie">http://data.marine.ie</a> ) and as online web services.</p> <p>Ireland’s Marine Atlas, which incorporates all the spatially relevant data and information compiled or identified during the Initial Assessment process for the MSFD, is now hosted in the Marine Institute and is available online at <a href="http://atlas.marine.ie">http://atlas.marine.ie</a> . (see update also provided under Action 9 MSFD)</p> <p>The Institute has also developed a dashboard-style application to make data from the Burrishoole catchment in Co. Mayo available online</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p> |

**HARNESSING OUR OCEAN WEALTH Short-Medium and Ongoing Items**

**September – December 2013**

| Enabler                | No | Key Actions   | Timing          | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|------------------------|----|---|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Infrastructure (Cont.) | 33 | Securely store all publicly funded marine data (e.g. seabed mapping, monitoring, research and scientific data) and where appropriate make available, as easily and freely as possible, in compliance with existing standards (e.g. INSPIRE) for multi-purpose usage (e.g. for research, governance, maritime spatial planning and commercial development purposes). Leverage for value-added purposes, including links to key EU projects in this area, such as, the EMODNET initiative | Ongoing         | Appropriate departments and agencies | <p>(<a href="http://burrishoole.marine.ie">http://burrishoole.marine.ie</a>). This dashboard-style approach can be reused for other data themes or information services.</p> <p>The Institute has been an active participant in the national INSPIRE working groups to progress how marine environmental data is shared in a standard way with other Government organisations including through the Irish Spatial Data Exchange project (<a href="http://www.isde.ie">www.isde.ie</a>) and the definition of the ISDI metadata profile. The data catalogues behind the Irish Spatial Data Exchange project are being updated.</p> <p>In 2013 the Marine Institute worked on developing the concept of the Irish Digital Ocean framework which aims to establish a national data platform for marine research, innovation and service delivery. The Irish Digital Ocean platform will combine existing data services from a range of organisations together with new data streams and will provide functionality to allow that data to be processed and easily accessed by a wide range of end users. The Irish Digital Ocean (IDO) platform will support collaborative research and innovation using cloud technologies, a platform for connection of new marine data streams and information services to simplify access to marine digital assets, including from research, to support the creation of new and improved marine products and services, including Government services. The platform will make marine data and services significantly more readily available and has the potential to improve the effectiveness of marine research and development at national level. -. The aim is to have an operational platform which is sufficiently robust to be used for research, commercial and Government services e.g. development of a renewable ocean energy data portal on behalf of the SEAI due to commence in 2014 will be based on the IDO platform.</p> |
| Infrastructure         | 34 | Carry out national, regional and local initiatives aimed at tapping into the potential of new and existing coastal infrastructure to develop sustainable products, services and jobs. This would encourage investment along the coast. Initiatives include  | See sub-actions | See sub-actions                      | <p>(See Actions 34a-34f)</p> <p>DAFM – See 32</p>  |

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| Enabler        | No  | Key Actions   | Timing  | Responsibility       | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|----------------|-----|---|---------|----------------------|---|
| Infrastructure | 34a | Mapping existing marine and coastal infrastructure and amenities throughout the country to support the development of marine and coastal tourism and leisure products and services; | Ongoing | DTTAS/Fáilte Ireland | <b><u>DTTAS/Fáilte Ireland</u></b><br>Ongoing and evolving as and when new databases become available including the MSFD  |
| Infrastructure | 34b | Research into best practice regarding the development and funding of marina and berthing facilities in Ireland and abroad, with a view to shaping national policy in this area;     | Ongoing | DTTAS/Fáilte Ireland | <b><u>DTTAS/Fáilte Ireland</u></b><br>The report is being used to inform the development of tourism policy. The report is available to third parties on request.  |
| Infrastructure | 34c | The Wild Atlantic Way' – a themed and packaged driving trail from Donegal to Cork;  | Ongoing | DTTAS/Fáilte Ireland | <b><u>DTTAS/Fáilte Ireland</u></b><br>The Wild Atlantic Way will be launched on 27 February 2014. The overall aim of the project is to develop a long-distance driving route that will achieve greater visibility for the west coast of Ireland in overseas tourist markets.<br><br>Fáilte Ireland is publishing regular update bulletins which can be downloaded on <a href="http://www.failteireland.ie/wildatlanticway">www.failteireland.ie/wildatlanticway</a> . |

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| Enabler        | No  | Key Actions   | Timing  | Responsibility  | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|----------------|-----|---|---------|---|---|
| Infrastructure | 34d | Utilising existing built and natural assets (e.g. Lighthouses and offshore islands) to develop tourism products and services;   | Ongoing | Appropriate departments and agencies  | <p><b><u>DTTAS</u></b><br/>A cross border project under the auspices of the Commissioners of Irish Lights and funded by INTERREG IVa was officially launched by Minister Varadkar and Minister Foster (NI) on 4th September 2013. Phase 1 of the project will see 5 lighthouse sites in the North of the island (3 in NI and 2 in ROI) developed as visitor attractions to include a mix of self-catering accommodation and the provision of upgraded or new visitor access facilities. Phase 1 is due to take 2 years to completion.</p> <p><b><u>Fáilte Ireland</u></b><br/>Fáilte Ireland informed the CIL lighthouse project brief to ensure that the brand and interpretation of this new tourism experience is aligned to our combined efforts to showcase the best of coastal Ireland.</p> <p>To deliver on Fáilte Ireland’s development objectives in the coming years, Ireland’s natural and built coastal assets will be harnessed to bring the experiences of the Wild Atlantic Way, and other experiences around the country to life. These include further interpretation and presentation of our coastal walks, and supports for the development of innovative coastal tours, e.g. kayak tours.</p> |
| Infrastructure | 34e | Investigating opportunities to increase Ireland’s share of the cruise tourism market and develop Ireland as a turnaround destination including supporting port companies in their plans to develop or expand cruise facilities using their own resources; and | Ongoing | DTTAS, Port Companies and other relevant organisations (public and private) | <p><b><u>DTTAS</u></b><br/>Indications are that the number of calls at Irish ports during this year’s season has again increased. Exact overall numbers are not yet available; however, as an example Dublin Port recorded its best ever year with 100 cruise calls, an increase of almost 14% on 2012.</p> <p>In Q4 2013 a number of ports continued to engage in pre-planning consultation in relation to various cruise related infrastructure development projects.</p>   |

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| Enabler               | No        | Key Actions  | Timing              | Responsibility                              | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|---------------------|---|--|
| Infrastructure        | 34f       | Supporting major national seaports in the implementation of their master plans to provide additional capacity and greater draft using their own resources.         | Ongoing             | DTTAS/Port Companies                        | <b><u>DTTAS</u></b><br>National Ports Policy, published in March 2013, explicitly supports the development of port masterplans by the major commercial port companies. All 3 Ports of National Significance (Tier 1) have masterplans in place and all 3 continued to progress implementation of these plans throughout Q4 2013 with planning applications likely in 2014.   |
| <b>Infrastructure</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>Coastal Protection/Flooding</b>   |                     |   | <b>(See actions 35a-35c)</b>   |
| Infrastructure        | 35a       | Complete the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study (ICPSS), which will provide strategic level coastal flood and erosion hazard maps for the national coastline. | Ongoing-Medium Term | OPW   | <b><u>OPW</u></b><br>All coastal flood hazard and erosion hazard maps have been completed for the national coastline. This project is now effectively complete.  |
| Infrastructure        | 35b       | Incorporate ICPSS coastal flood hazard assessment into long-term flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness.                   | Ongoing-Medium Term | OPW   | <b><u>OPW</u></b><br>ICPSS coastal flood hazard maps are currently being incorporated into long-term flood risk management plans.  |
| Infrastructure        | 35c       | Establish permanent tidal monitoring infrastructure (national tide gauge network) around the coast of Ireland.   | Ongoing-Medium Term | MI, OPW, LAs, other public & private bodies | <b><u>OPW</u></b><br>The national tide gauge network is currently being hosted and maintained by the Marine Institute and other stakeholders. In the past 4 years the OPW have established a number of additional tidal monitoring stations (5) to support their business needs and OPW will continue to keep under review their requirements for any additional such gauges to support their future business needs. The most recent permanent tide gauge installed by OPW was in Cork Harbour at Ringaskiddy in 2011. Recorded tide level data in realtime from these OPW gauges is publicly available via the waterlevel.ie website. Any future tidal monitoring stations will be co-ordinated with the Marine Institute.<br><br><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b><br>Status as before. The MI continued to develop outputs derived from the tide gauges. |

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| Enabler                                   | No  | Key Actions   | Timing          | Responsibility  | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|-----|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| International and North/South Cooperation | 36  | Influence the development and implementation of EU maritime policy, strategies and programmes (e.g. IMPEUSA, CFP, MSP, MSFD, EMODNET) to assist in the delivery of the goals of Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth. This will be achieved by | See sub-actions | See sub-actions | <p>(See Actions 36a-36c)</p> <p><u>Marine Institute</u></p> <p>The SEAS-ERA report "Atlantic Research Plan" was presented at the Lisbon Atlantic Conference (Lisbon, Portugal, 5 December 2013). The Atlantic Report represents a source of information on the sectoral research priorities to be addressed in an Atlantic Sea Basin context to support the Blue Growth Strategy.</p> |
| International and North/South Cooperation | 36a | Maximising relevant funding opportunities (e.g. structural and cohesion funding);   | Ongoing         | DFA, MCG        |   |

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| Enabler                                   | No  | Key Actions                                     | Timing  | Responsibility  | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|-----|---|---------|-----------------|---|
| International and North/South Cooperation | 36b | Utilising Irish representation in Brussels; and | Ongoing | All departments | <p><b>DJEI</b></p> <p>The Commission adopted the Copernicus Regulation on 29 May 2013 and the proposal was presented to the Competitiveness Council on 30 May. Copernicus is the new name for the European Earth Observation Programme GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security). Copernicus is a European initiative for the implementation of information services dealing with environment and security. Copernicus is based on observation data received from Earth Observation satellites and ground based information. The overall objective of the Copernicus initiative is to support Europe’s goals regarding sustainable development and global governance of the environment by providing timely and quality data, information, services and knowledge. Through Copernicus the state of our environment and its short, medium and long-term evolution will be monitored to support policy decisions or investments. Copernicus will provide services in six sectors: Marine monitoring, Atmosphere monitoring, Climate change monitoring, Land monitoring, Emergency management and Security. A number of Government Departments, agencies and organisations have an interest in aspects of the proposal as potential users of the system and Copernicus will also provide opportunities for commercial applications in the downstream sector based on full and open access to Copernicus observation data and information products. This ambitious Earth observation programme is headed by the European Commission in partnership with the European Environment Agency and the European Space Agency and will enter its full operational phase in 2014.</p> <p>The draft Regulation is awaiting adoption by the European Parliament.</p> |

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| Enabler                                   | No  | Key Actions   | Timing            | Responsibility  | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|---|-----|---|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| International and North/South Cooperation | 36c | Highlighting our marine sector/our ocean wealth during the Irish EU Presidency (Jan – Jun 2013).  | Short Term        | All departments | <p><b>DAFM</b></p> <p>The arrangement known as the Voisinage Arrangement (VA), dating from 1966, allows fishing for all species of fish by vessels from Ireland within the 6 mile exclusive territorial limits of Northern Ireland and allows Northern Ireland vessels similar access to Irish waters. The VA reflected the historic fishing access arrangements. Reciprocal access is allowed by both jurisdictions under the same rules and conditions as apply for national vessels.</p> <p>All-island management of the mussel seed fishery, providing raw material for aquaculture, has been in place since 2003 in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture &amp; Rural Development in Northern Ireland. Bottom-grown mussels are one of the most lucrative aquaculture stocks in Ireland (production in IE was valued at €1.74m in 2011). The Departments maintain ongoing co-ordination of this fishery to ensure a level playing field both sides of the border.</p> <p>Both departments engage on inshore fisheries policy matters on an ongoing basis and are planning to meet in Q1/Q2 to exchange information on approaches to stock management.</p> |
| International and North/South Cooperation | 37  | Ensure the inclusion of marine research in all relevant Work Programmes developed under HORIZON 2020 in order to maximise EU marine research funding opportunities and support the implementation of IMP – EU and its Sea Basin Strategies. | Short-Medium Term | All departments | <p><b>DJEI</b></p> <p>The Commission is consulting Member States on the development of work programmes for the implementation of Horizon 2020. Programme Committees for the main elements of H 2020 are meeting in shadow form pending formal establishment in January 2014. DJEI is represented on the Strategic Programme Committee and the Marine Institute is represented on the European Bioeconomy Societal Challenge. This should provide scope to monitor inclusion of marine research in all relevant work programmes.</p> <p>At the horizontal or strategic level of Horizon 2020, the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2014/2015 has been agreed (2015 is indicative and to be decided during 2014).</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p>   |

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| Enabler   | No | Key Actions   | Timing            | Responsibility  | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|----|---|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| International and North/South Cooperation (Cont.) | 37 | Ensure the inclusion of marine research in all relevant Work Programmes developed under HORIZON 2020 in order to maximise EU marine research funding opportunities and support the implementation of IMP – EU and its Sea Basin Strategies. | Short-Medium Term | All departments | <p>A number of areas, including <i>Blue growth: unlocking the potential of seas and oceans</i>, have been identified for special focus in the first Horizon 2020 Work Programme. Each of these is embedded in the relevant parts of the Work Programme according to where the centre of gravity lies, and covered by a specific call.</p> <p>The aim of the <i>Blue growth: unlocking the potential of seas and oceans</i> focus area is to improve the understanding of the complex interrelations between various maritime activities, technologies, including space enabled applications, and the marine environment to help boost the marine and maritime economy by accelerating its potential through R&amp;I. It will enhance sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation by building on major international, regional and national initiatives.</p> <p>This focus area addresses this overall challenge through five cross-cutting priority domains supporting the Blue Growth Agenda: valorising the diversity of marine life; sustainable harvesting the deep-sea resources; new offshore challenge; sea and ocean observation technologies; and the socio-economic dimension.</p> <p><b><u>Marine Institute</u></b><br/> Official Launch of Horizon 2020 Programme, with “Blue Growth” included as a Focus Area, reference to the EU Strategy for the Atlantic and the Galway Statement on Atlantic Research Cooperation and allocation of competitive funding for collaborative Atlantic Ocean Research (10th – 11th December 2013)</p> |

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| Enabler                                   | No | Key Actions   | Timing                 | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|---|----|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| International and North/South Cooperation | 38 | Continue to foster a North/South and East/West approach in developing/enabling the marine sector (e.g. grid/all-island energy strategy, marine tourism and leisure) through existing structures and bodies. | Ongoing                | Appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b>Marine Institute</b><br/>The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual SmartOcean Forum was held 5-6 Nov in Titanic Belfast with lead sponsorship from InvestNI. There were approximately 180 delegates and 91 organisation represented at the Forum over two days. Engagement with InvestNI has continued post the Forum to build on this partnership though involvement in other initiatives happening through the SmartOcean cluster and the SmartBay National Test and Demonstration Facility.</p> <p><b>DCENR /GSI</b><br/>INIS HYDRO Project was successfully completed. INIS HYDRO is an InterReg IVA funded collaborative project between GSI, MI (Irl), AFBI (NI), SAMS (Scotland) and MCA (UK), mapping priority areas in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland, developing protocols for mapping and promoting training of key staff.</p> <p><b>DAHG</b><br/>DAHG organised and hosted a meeting between officials from Ireland and Northern Ireland to discuss issues of mutual interest related to the Habitats Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p> |
| International and North/South Cooperation | 39 | Establish key trade and research links in non-EU markets and countries (e.g. China and transatlantic initiatives).  | Short-Medium-Long Term | Appropriate departments and agencies | <p><b>Marine Institute</b><br/>In September 2013, DAFM completed a trade visit to China (Sept 2013) – see details below. The visit also included the signing of a MoU between the Marine Institute and the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (CAFS).</p> <p>The Institute also had constructive and positive dialogue with Memorial University, Newfoundland on transatlantic initiatives.</p> <p><b>DJEI</b><br/>In 2012, Ireland entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement with</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p>   |

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| Enabler   | No               | Key Actions  | Timing                               | Responsibility                                     | Recent Progress and Present Position   |
|---|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p><b>International and North/South Cooperation (cont.)</b></p> | <p><b>39</b></p> | <p><b>Establish key trade and research links in non-EU markets and countries (e.g. China and transatlantic initiatives).</b></p> | <p><b>Short-Medium-Long Term</b></p> | <p><b>Appropriate departments and agencies</b></p> | <p>China which sets out a framework to ensure mutually beneficial cooperation between Ireland and China in a number of important areas. The US-Ireland R&amp;D Partnership involves the governments of the United States of America, Ireland and Northern Ireland working together to advance scientific progress by awarding grants for research on a competitive basis. Areas of focus for collaboration include health, telecommunications and energy.</p> <p>An S&amp;T Agreement between Ireland and Russia is currently being discussed and may be signed at a meeting of the Ireland Russia JEC in April.</p> <p><b><u>BIM</u></b><br/> <b><u>Progress new market development in China/Asia</u></b><br/>                     The demand for seafood in China continues to grow BIM is placing a particular focus on establishing a premium market niche position through the establishment of innovative seafood company joint-ventures, in association with Bord Bia.<br/>                     During Qtr. 4. BIM personnel visited the China Seafood Exposition in November to work with the Irish seafood joint ventures ( Ocean Jade and Atlantic Gold,) and to support their position in the Chinese market.<br/>                     On the boarfish project, initial work on developing a potential market for this species is being undertaken. The focus is on the mid level consumer segments for this product.</p> <p><b><u>Bord Bia</u></b><br/>                     Bord Bia coordinated a total of 11 separate seafood itineraries to different geographic seafood producing regions across Ireland during its International Sustainability conference at the end of September. A total of 43 seafood buyers from ‘emerging’ seafood markets such as Russia, Middle East, Japan, South Korea, China and the US participated in these itineraries which included site visits to over 40 seafood processors facilities during the course of these 3 day itineraries. An additional 20+ one to one meetings between Irish suppliers and international buyers</p> <p><b>(Cont.)</b></p> |

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| Enabler   | No | Key Actions  | Timing                 | Responsibility                       | Recent Progress and Present Position  |
|---|----|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| International and North/South Cooperation (cont.) | 39 | Establish key trade and research links in non-EU markets and countries (e.g. China and transatlantic initiatives). | Short-Medium-Long Term | Appropriate departments and agencies | <p>were arranged between Thursday 26th during the conference and on Friday 27th September in Dublin.</p> <p>Bord Bia also coordinated a trade workshop and product sampling to promote Irish boarfish to Chinese buyers during its presence at the ChinaFisheries Show (largest Asian seafood trade show) in November. A total of 14 Irish seafood processors exhibited on the Ireland stand at this show. The boarfish workshop, which was targeted at potential Chinese importers and processors, has resulted in a number of strong leads in this market for boarfish and Bord Bia is now actively coordinating product samples for prospective customers and following up on these leads identified. Bord Bia has also developed a marketing plan to support the launch of boarfish in the Chinese market in 2014 and is working in tandem with BIM to coordinate supplies.</p> |