

Public Consultation: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP)

[Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan \(OREDP\) \(Public Consultation\)](#)

[Appendix 4 Draft OREDP \(Constraint Maps\)](#)

[Non Technical Summary \(SEA Environmental Report\)](#)

[SEA Environmental Report \(Full Version\)](#)

[SEA Environmental Report \(ER\) Vol 3 Figures \(1\)](#)

[SEA Environmental Report \(ER\) Vol 3 Figures \(2\) Chapter 9 Baseline Environment](#)

[SEA Environmental Report \(ER\) Vol 4 Appendices](#)

As a country which depends upon imported fossil fuels for over 90% of our energy needs, we have an urgent need to develop our own local energy supplies for our future security. In making such a switch, we must also reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% over the next four decades to help avert runaway climate change. The good fortune we have is that our country is so rich in our own renewable resources that making this switch to our own local power supplies also presents a wonderful economic opportunity for our country.

Ireland's ocean territory extends to 89 million hectares and encompasses a wealth of natural resources. The sea area is around 10 times the size of the land area and has one of the best wind and wave resources in Europe. Our marine environment can provide a vast amount of energy through offshore wind, wave and tidal energy technologies.

The Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources asked the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on low, medium and higher marine renewable energy development scenarios to inform policy decisions as we develop this new industry. The SEA Environmental Report on these scenarios has informed this draft plan.

It is now open to public consultation so that everyone can give their views on how we should progress this new industry and opportunity for our country.

Public Consultation and Transboundary Consultation

Responding to the Public Consultation

In this public consultation phase, the draft OREDP and the draft SEA Environmental Report are being made available on the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources (DCENR) website www.dcenr.gov.ie as well as on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's website at www.seai.ie.

Four public consultation seminars/workshops have been held as follows

Cork: Monday 15th November 2010 at 10.30am in Moran's Silver Springs Hotel, Cork

Galway: Tuesday 16th November 2010 at 10.30am in the Galway Bay Hotel, Galway

Dublin: Thursday 18th November 2010 at 10.30am in O'Callaghan's Davenport Hotel, Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Donegal: Friday 19th November 2010 at 10.30am in Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal

Representatives from DCENR involved in the drafting of this draft plan attended the public consultation along with representatives from the Ocean Energy Development Unit in SEAI and Aecom, the consultants involved in compiling the Environmental Report.

The DCENR presentation given at the Public Consultation meetings can be accessed [here](#)

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The presentation given at the Public Consultation meetings by Aecom, the consultants, on the SEA Environmental Report, can be accessed [here](#).

Written submissions on the draft OREDP and the SEA Environmental Report may be submitted up to 18 January 2011 either by email to oreseaconsultation@seai.ie or by post to SEA Consultation, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, Wilton Park House, Wilton Place, Dublin 2.

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 to 2003 apply to any submissions received. Information provided in response to the public consultation, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the legislation. If you regard any information provided as confidential, please indicate this clearly.

Next Steps following the public consultation

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland will ensure that all comments received on this draft Plan are provided to the DCENR for review, along with the comments on the SEA Environmental Report. A post consultation report will be compiled in Quarter 1, 2011.

Following the public consultation, DCENR will review the feedback received prior to finalising the OREDP. The final version of the OREDP will be adopted and published in the first quarter of 2011 and a Ministerial SEA Statement will be published simultaneously which will reflect how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan and how the feedback from the public consultation has been considered.

Transboundary Consultation

The SEA Environmental Report has identified that potential transboundary and in-combination effects are most likely to occur in relation to Northern Ireland. In terms of cross border consultation, the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment, Northern Ireland is being formally sent both the draft OREDP and SEA Environmental Report for views.

The SEA Environmental Report also identified transboundary effects relating to the Irish Sea. In light of the longer term potential of the offshore marine sector in an export context, we will also be formally consulting with the UK and French administrations on this draft Plan/SEA Environmental Report.

Questions for Consideration during the Public Consultation

Do you think that the recommended actions in Chapter 10 are appropriate and achievable?

What are your views on the 'deploy and monitor' approach (see Appendix 3)?

Table 7 provides a high level strategic overview of the level of development that the assessment has shown is possible for the various technologies without significant adverse effects on the environment in the different resource assessment areas. What are your views on the levels of potential development identified?