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Experience of EIA in Offshore Renewables

Ireland's EIA Conference 2025

06/03/2025

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aspect ecology
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NASH
MARITIME
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woodrow
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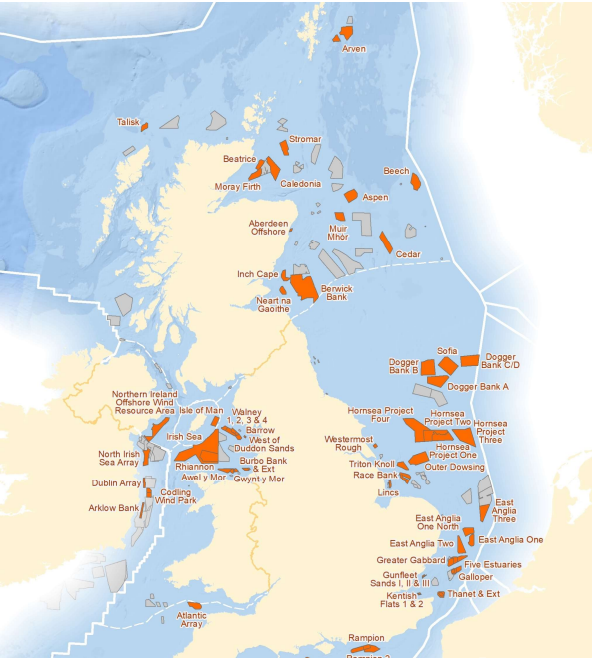


APEM Group

APEM Group is leading global environment consultancy providing expert advice to clients in a wide range of industries including renewables, water and infrastructure.

With deep scientific and technical expertise, supplemented with a heritage of innovative solutions such as our groundbreaking LiDAR marine wildlife surveys for the offshore wind industry, our team of scientists, technical experts and consultants provide a range of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecology consultancy services combined with market leading geospatial service, across the world.

GoBe
APEM Group



Our Place in Offshore Wind

We are the leading dedicated offshore wind consultancy and environmental services company in UK and Ireland



>40GW

OFFSHORE WIND CAPACITY (UK/IRELAND)



>60

OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS (UK/IRELAND)

>200 people

DEDICATED TO THE OFFSHORE WIND SECTOR

Depth & Breadth

UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING

Integrated

PROVIDING A 'DOOR TO DOOR' SERVICE FOR OWF DEVELOPERS

Quality Focused

ISO, IEMA, NMBAQC

Ireland's Offshore Consenting Regime



- The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021
- Consenting process to develop in the maritime area is now a two-stage process:
 1. MAC Application
 2. Maritime Planning Permission Application
- For the next phase of offshore wind development, development areas will now be designated via the 'Designated Maritime Area Plans' (DMAPs)

Number 50 of 2021

Maritime Area Planning Act 2021

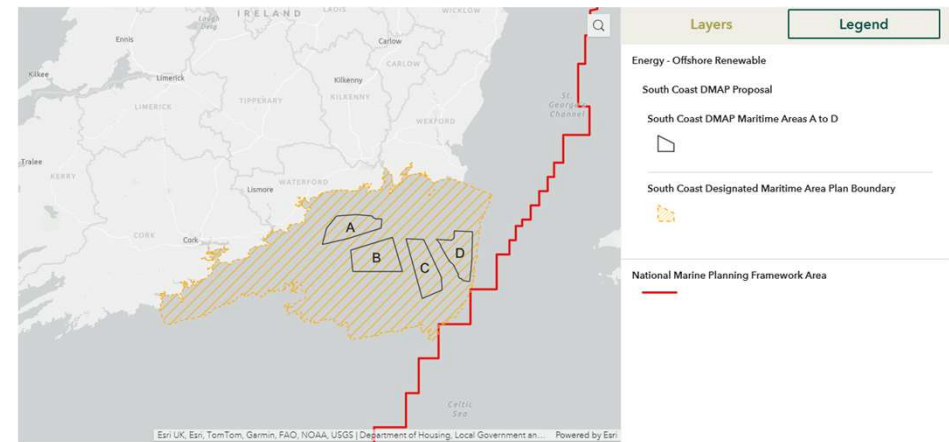


Image source: marineplan.ie



Key Topics

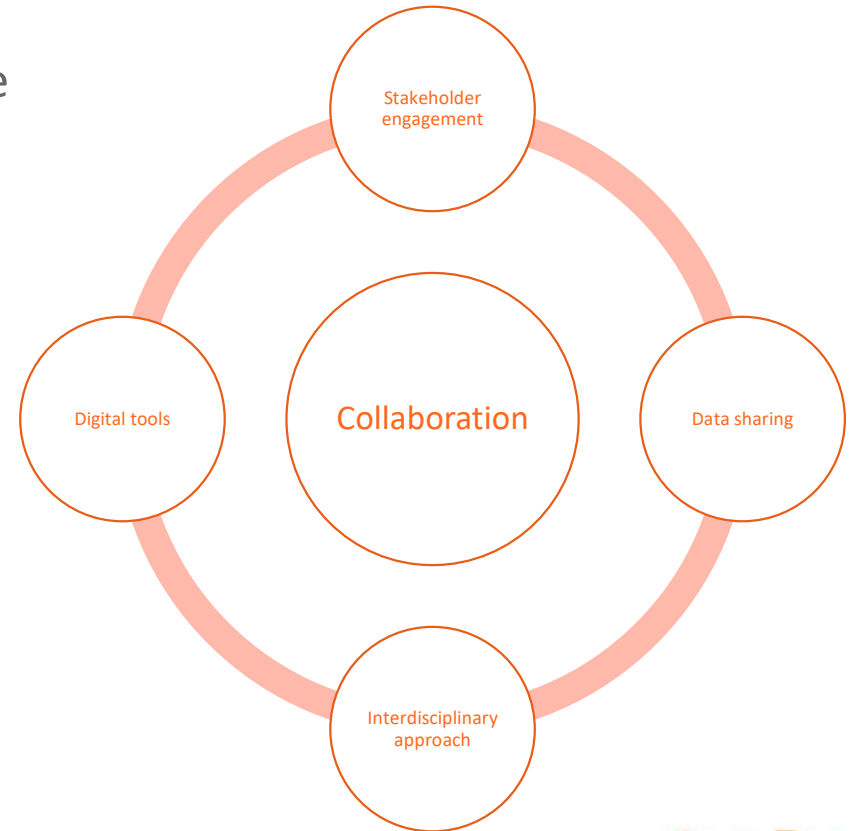
1. Collaboration
2. Emerging Topics
3. Innovation



Image source: GoBe Consultants

Collaboration in the EIA Process

- By its very nature, the EIA process is a collaborative problem-solving tool
- Collaboration occurs at every stage of the process
- But when do we need to push beyond the typical boundaries of collaboration?
 - Absence of country or topic specific guidance
 - New / emerging topics
 - Lack of engagement with statutory consultees
 - Reducing the burden on stakeholders (multiple meetings from multiple projects to discuss the same issues)



Collaboration in the EIA Process



- East Coast Phase 1 joint Offshore Ornithology Assessment Methodology Note
 - Inform and consult stakeholders on the intended approach to all major aspects of the ornithological assessments
 - Reduce the number of documents from individual projects seeking agreement with NPWS on the approaches and input parameters for the assessments
 - All assessment methods proposed by the Projects were agreed within a collaborative forum and were undertaken following an evidence-led process

Method Statement - Offshore Wind
Ornithology Assessment for East Coast
Phase 1 Projects.

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Collaboration in the EIA Process

- SLVIA – Data Sharing
 - Sharing of design parameters between projects to inform the cumulative assessments
 - Aiming to ensure that stakeholders and regulators have a realistic interpretation of how the projects will look if combined
 - Providing a robust SLVIA assessment



Image source: GoBe Consultants

Emerging Topics

- Offshore Bats
 - Offshore bats is an emerging field of study in relation to offshore wind
 - Phase 1 projects developed survey techniques and approaches to better understand the baseline environment and inform respective impact assessments

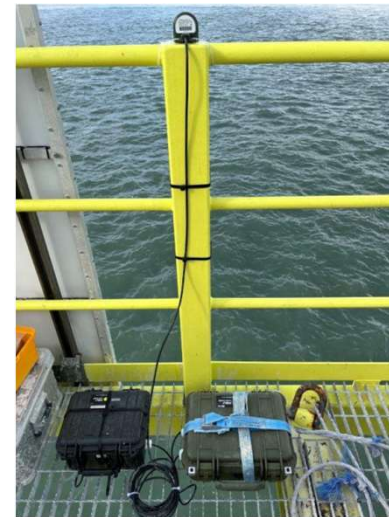


Image sources: APEM Group / Woodrow

Take Home Message

- The EIA process enhances collaboration and fosters innovation. By working together and implementing new solutions, we can ensure sustainable development and positive environmental outcomes as we help to solve complex global issues.



Image source: GoBe Consultants

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Thank you

