

**Beaufort Award in Economic and Social Research  
related to the Development Dynamics of the Marine  
Sector in Ireland**

**Terms of Reference**

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

To develop research capacity in the priority area of economic and social research related to the development dynamics of the marine sector in Ireland through the funding of a research team. This will inform the development of the marine sector through the use of knowledge derived from marine related economic and social research and analysis.

**STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

The marine sector in Ireland has received increasing attention in recent years. Its development as an economically active, commercially viable, environmentally and socially sustainable sector is in keeping with some of the most important European and Irish economic, social and environment policies. The government has recently endorsed the drive to develop the marine sector as a dynamic element of Ireland's knowledge economy via the approval of the *Sea Change: A Marine Knowledge, Research & Innovation Strategy for Ireland 2007-2013*<sup>1</sup>.

The *Sea Change Strategy* is aimed at supporting the transformation of the marine sector so that: *by 2020 the marine sector will sell into specialized global and local markets in a dynamic, innovative and technologically driver manner, by means of strong industry research partnerships, a skilled workforce and a strategic capability that responds to markets and technology. It will be internationally recognized for its high quality marine environment and characterized by coherent policy and regulation.*

In order to support the achievement of this transition, dedicated economic and social research and related analysis will be required to support 'evidence based' policy development within the sector.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

Specifically, the research team/consortia will deliver new research capacity to address key aspects of the development dynamics of the marine sector in Ireland as follows:

- i. Size and composition of the marine sector in Ireland.
- ii. Competitiveness and growth issues for an evolving marine sector and maritime economy.
- iii. Contribution of existing and new marine activities to regional/rural development in Ireland
- iv. Development of an economic model for the marine sector in Ireland (in line with the vision and objectives in *Sea Change*)
- v. Impact of marine activities on social inclusion and cultural diversity in rural areas.
- vi. Quantification of the non-market benefits of marine resources to Ireland.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.marine.ie/home/seachange](http://www.marine.ie/home/seachange)

- vii. Achieving a balance between regulation and development to support sustainable development of marine activities.

***In respect of the above it is envisaged that research activities will focus on:***

- Identification of the data sets required.
- Development of new standard data collection and collation mechanisms in conjunction with relevant partners.
- Development and application of new analysis techniques to deliver outputs in each of the areas outlined above.
- Application of data and analysis to support the development and monitoring of relevant socio-economic and regional development performance and impact indicators for the *Sea Change* Strategy.

**DELIVERABLES/KEY OUTPUTS**

- Contribution to the development of a research team/consortia and associated research capacity to address key aspects of the development dynamics of the marine sector in Ireland;
- New data collection and analysis techniques and the application of these techniques to address specific aspects of the development dynamics of the marine sector;
- Appropriate performance and impact indicators to underpin an analysis and evolution of the *Sea Change* Strategy;
- Establishment of working relationships with relevant government departments, national organisations and agencies;
- Establishment of working relationships with the marine sector;
- Development of new international partnerships and projects in areas that add value to the objectives of the Beaufort Award; and
- Development of a close working relationship with the *Sea Change* Management Unit in the Marine Institute.

**ACCESS TO MARINE INSTITUTE DATA**

The Marine Institute has data which may be applicable to this research programme. This data will be made available to anyone who wishes to compete for this award. Candidates should contact Aengus Parsons ([aengus.parsons@marine.ie](mailto:aengus.parsons@marine.ie)) to discuss further details on access.

**KEY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Further information is available in *Sea Change: A Marine Knowledge, Research & -Innovation Strategy for Ireland 2007-2013* and the associated supporting document: *Sea Change (2007-2013) Part II: Marine Foresight Exercise for Ireland* (which provides further details on the Policy, Socio-Economic & Legal Research Programme). Both documents are available to download from [www.marine.ie/home/seachange](http://www.marine.ie/home/seachange) or alternatively by requesting hard copies from the Marine Institute.