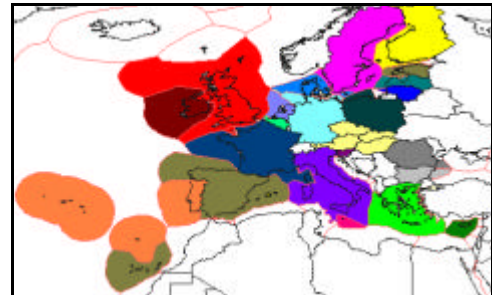




# KnowSeas – Knowledge-based Sustainable Management for Europe’s Seas

## Project Details

Funding Programme: 7th Framework Programme (FP7)  
 Sub-Programme: Cooperation, Theme 6: Environment (including Climate Change)  
 Funding Scheme: Large scale integrating project  
 Project Duration: 48 months (2008-2012)  
 Total Project Value: €7.3m  
 EU Grant-Aid: €5.8m  
 Funding to Ireland: €128,341  
 Website: not currently available



## Project Description

Europe’s four regional seas (Baltic, Black, Mediterranean and NE Atlantic) have suffered severe environmental degradation due to human pressure. Existing measures to manage pressures have proven inadequate and the EC has responded by proposing a new policy (Maritime Strategy Blue Book) and environmental legislation (Marine Strategy Directive), both currently close to adoption. These instruments rely on the *Ecosystem Approach*, a management paradigm that encompasses humans and the supporting ecosystem. But the science base for this approach needs strengthening and practical tools must be developed and tested for policy implementation. In particular, criteria for assessing costs and benefits of management actions are poorly developed, particularly in the complex marine environment where multiple uses and management conflicts are common.

The **KnowSeas** consortium will strengthen the science base for managing Europe’s seas through the practical application of systems thinking. It will work at the two scales envisaged for emergent EU policy: the Regional Sea Scale and Member State Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZs). It will develop a new approach of Decision Space Analysis to investigate mismatches of scale. Knowledge created through the FP6 European Lifestyles and Marine Ecosystems project, augmented with necessary new studies of climate effects, fisheries and maritime industries - in EEZ case studies - will provide a basis for assessing changes to natural systems and their human causes. New research will examine and model economic and social impacts of changes to ecosystem goods and services and costs and benefits of various management options available through existing and proposed policy instruments. Institutional and social analysis will determine conflicts of interest and examine governance as well as stakeholder values and perceptions. **KnowSeas** research will develop and test an assessment toolbox through regional liaison groups and a multisectoral Project Advisory Board.

<b>Project Partners</b>	
Project Coordinator	University of Plymouth, UK
Ireland	CMRC, University College Cork
UK	Center for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Envision Management Ltd. Institute for European Environmental Policy Sir Alistair Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science Scottish Association for Marine Science University of East Anglia University of Bath
Netherlands	Deltares EUCCO The Coastal Union Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences Vereniging voor christelijk hoger onderwijs, wetenschappelijk onderzoek en patientenzorg

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Turkey	Middle East Technical University
Sweden	Stockholm's universitet
Denmark	University of Southern Denmark
Spain	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Poland	Morski Instytut Rybacki, Sea Fisheries Institute
Finland	Suomen ympäristökeskus
France	Université de Bretagne Occidentale