

Post-Doctoral Fellowship: Proposal Outline

Topic	Building a framework for tracking societal attitudes, perceptions and values linked to Ireland's coastal and marine spaces and the social benefits they provide.
Research Theme(s)	Integrated Policy & Governance: Socio-Economics
Background and Rationale	Some of the main interactions in our marine waters and coastal zone are driven by cultural factors and society's and the general public's perceptions, attitudes and values. For example, people's perception of water quality can affect their willingness to participate in marine in-water recreational activities. The National Marine Planning Framework has identified a need to encourage and enhance the social benefits that can be derived from developments in the marine space. These benefits include improved health and well-being, enjoyment, cultural identity and a sense of place. Understanding the general public's values towards Ireland's marine waters and the activities and social benefits that they derive from our marine space will allow these elements to be more explicitly incorporated into decision making by various stakeholders.
Scope of Research (Scientific/ Technical Challenge)	<p>The overarching aim of this fellowship is to build a framework of surveys to establish a baseline and then to track changes in values, activities and social benefits over time.</p> <p>The fellowship should address key research objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine previous survey frameworks and surveys that have been implemented both in Ireland and abroad for values, activities and social benefits related to the marine • Create a survey framework for Ireland that will capture at national scale the general public's values, activities and social benefits for Ireland's marine waters • Undertake an initial baseline survey and reassess with a follow up survey to examine changes over time. • Undertake a more focused survey or engagement to assess in particular how social benefits can be assessed at local coastal community level and examine differences at scale between national level surveys and local focused assessments. <p>The fellow would ideally have a primary degree and PhD in social sciences, economics, geography, business or closely related discipline.</p>

<p>Expected Impact(s)</p>	<p>The results of at least two surveys at national level will also be used for assessing change under the monitoring approach of the National Marine Planning Framework.</p> <p>The fellow will engage with relevant national and international networks, and explore opportunities for collaboration and securing further research funding under Horizon Europe and/or other relevant funding programmes.</p> <p>This fellowship will help to build national expertise in this research area.</p> <p>The fellow will produce policy briefs for stakeholders, and publish their research findings as widely as possible through peer-reviewed papers, conference presentations, articles, etc.</p>
<p>Outcomes</p>	<p>The fellow will create a framework (including guidelines) for a medium- long-term assessment of values, activities and social benefits at both national level and local level.</p> <p>Results, published as appropriate, of at least two surveys at national level on perceptions, attitudes, values, social benefits and activities in connection with Ireland’s marine waters.</p>
<p>Specific Collaboration</p>	<p>Marine Institute (Marine Spatial Planning) Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage CSO (Ecosystem Accounts Division)</p>
<p>Location of Fellow</p>	<p>Higher Education Institute or Public Research Body (Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland)</p>
<p>Duration and Funding Available</p>	<p>4 years €100,000 per annum (i.e. total €400,000 maximum for duration of four years)</p>
<p>References</p>	<p>National Marine Planning Framework. 2021</p> <p>CSO Pulse Survey - Our Lives Outdoors. 2022</p> <p>French, V. and McDonough, N. 2020. Ocean Citizen Survey: Perceptions of the Irish Public on Priorities for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Ocean. The Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway</p> <p>Sport Ireland. 2021. Irish Sports Monitor Annual Report.</p>

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Reilly, K., O'Hagan, A.M. and Dalton, G., 2015. Attitudes and perceptions of fishermen on the island of Ireland towards the development of marine renewable energy projects. *Marine Policy*, 58, pp.88-97.

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