



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Integrated Forward Planning for Ireland's Marine Area – Developing the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)

13 March 2019 – IWEA Spring Conference

National Marine Planning Framework



What is MSP?

Tool for rectifying spatial conflicts in maritime space



A process that brings together multiple users of the ocean to make informed and coordinated decisions about how to use marine resources sustainably.



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Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government

National Marine Planning Framework Baseline Report



National Marine Planning Framework



Driven by Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (HOOW 2012) and EU Directive 2014/89/EU.



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Minister for HP&LG Competent Authority – in line with terrestrial planning responsibilities

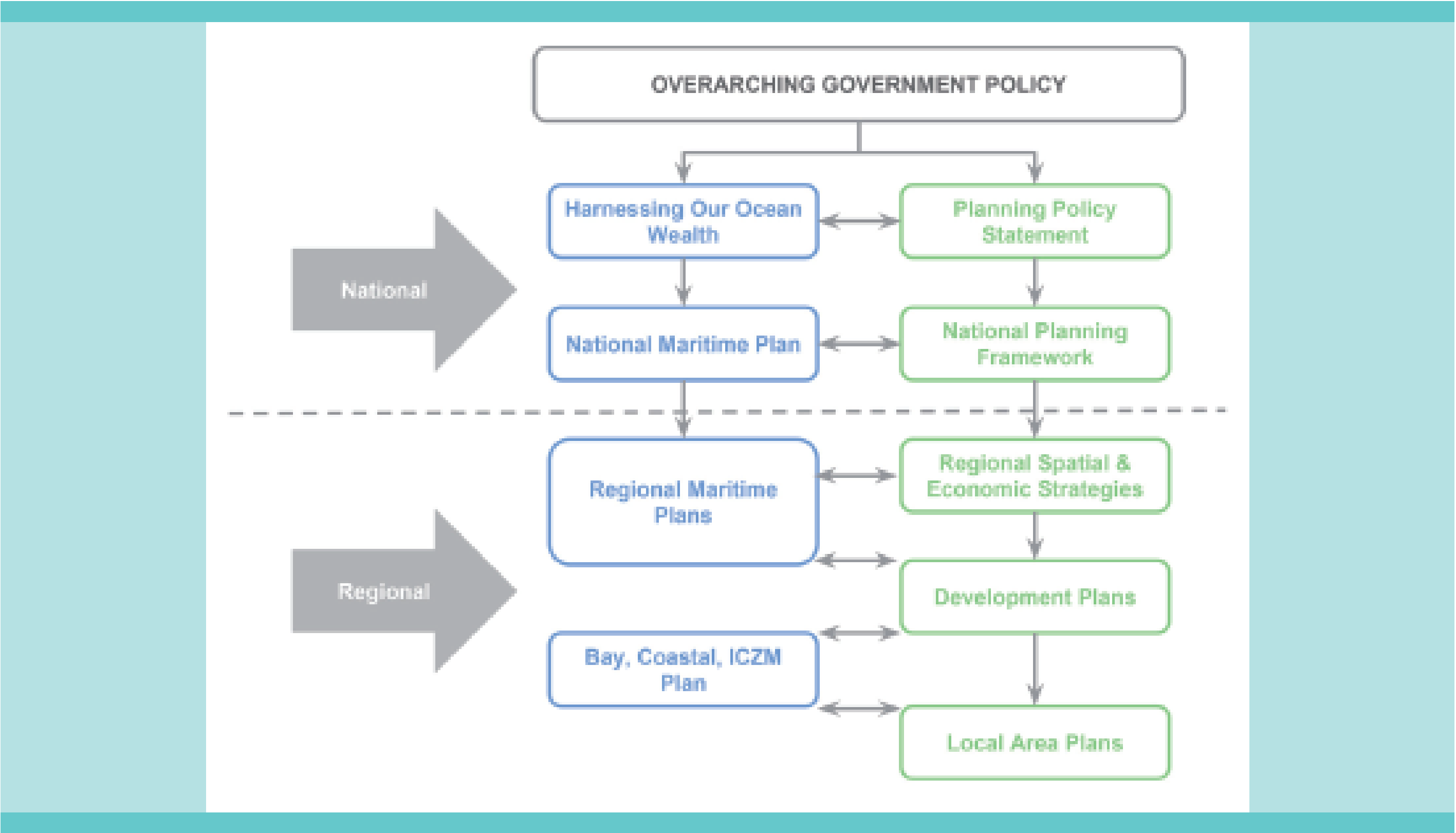
Plan will apply to Ireland's maritime area, including internal waters (sea area), territorial seas, exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf. The maritime area comprises approx. 490,000 km² and extends from mean high water mark at the coast seaward to in excess of 200 nautical miles in parts

Marine Plan for Ireland by March 2021 – a parallel to NPF

**National Marine
Planning Framework**
Baseline Report

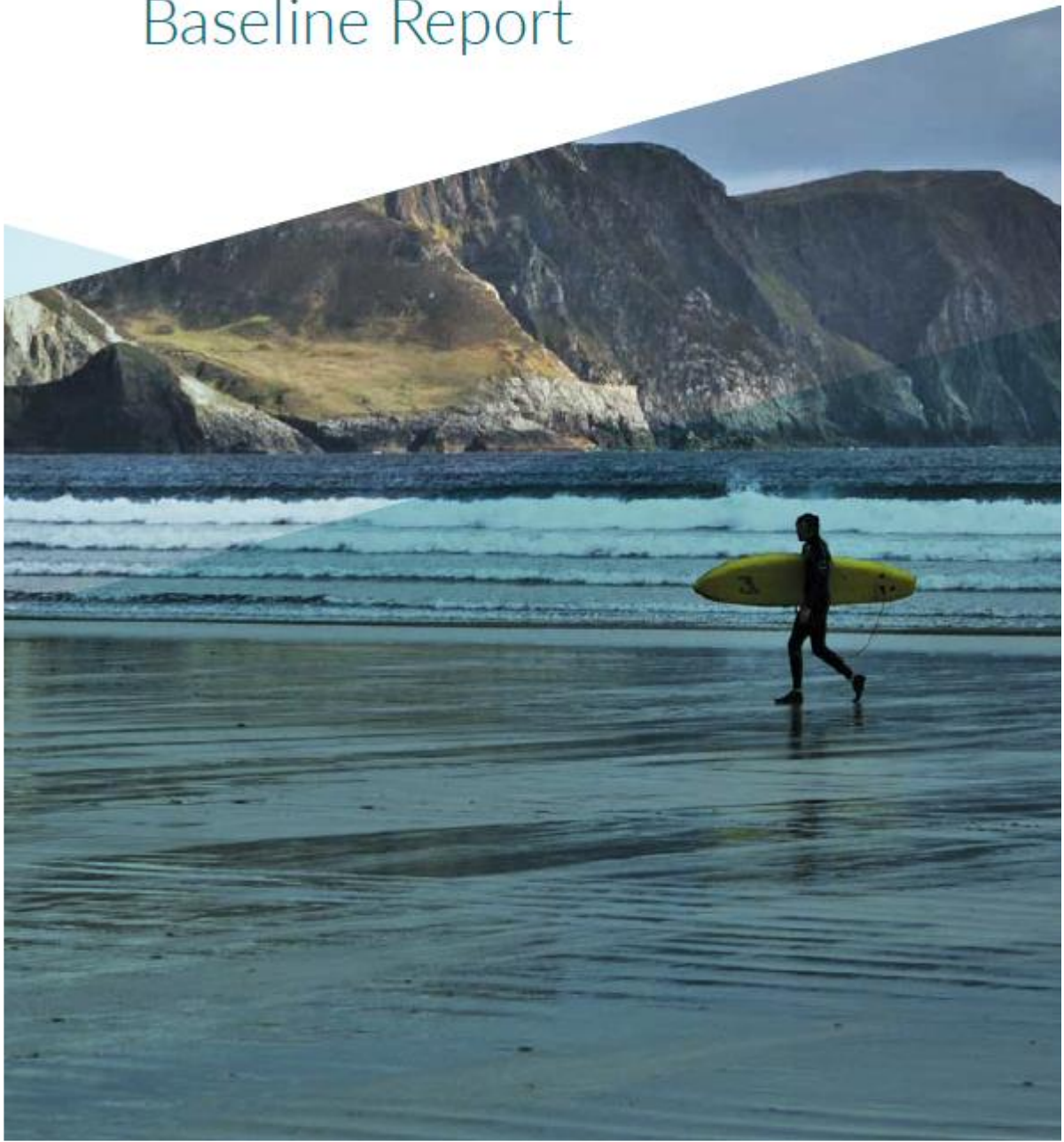


National Marine Planning Framework What will Ireland's plan look like?

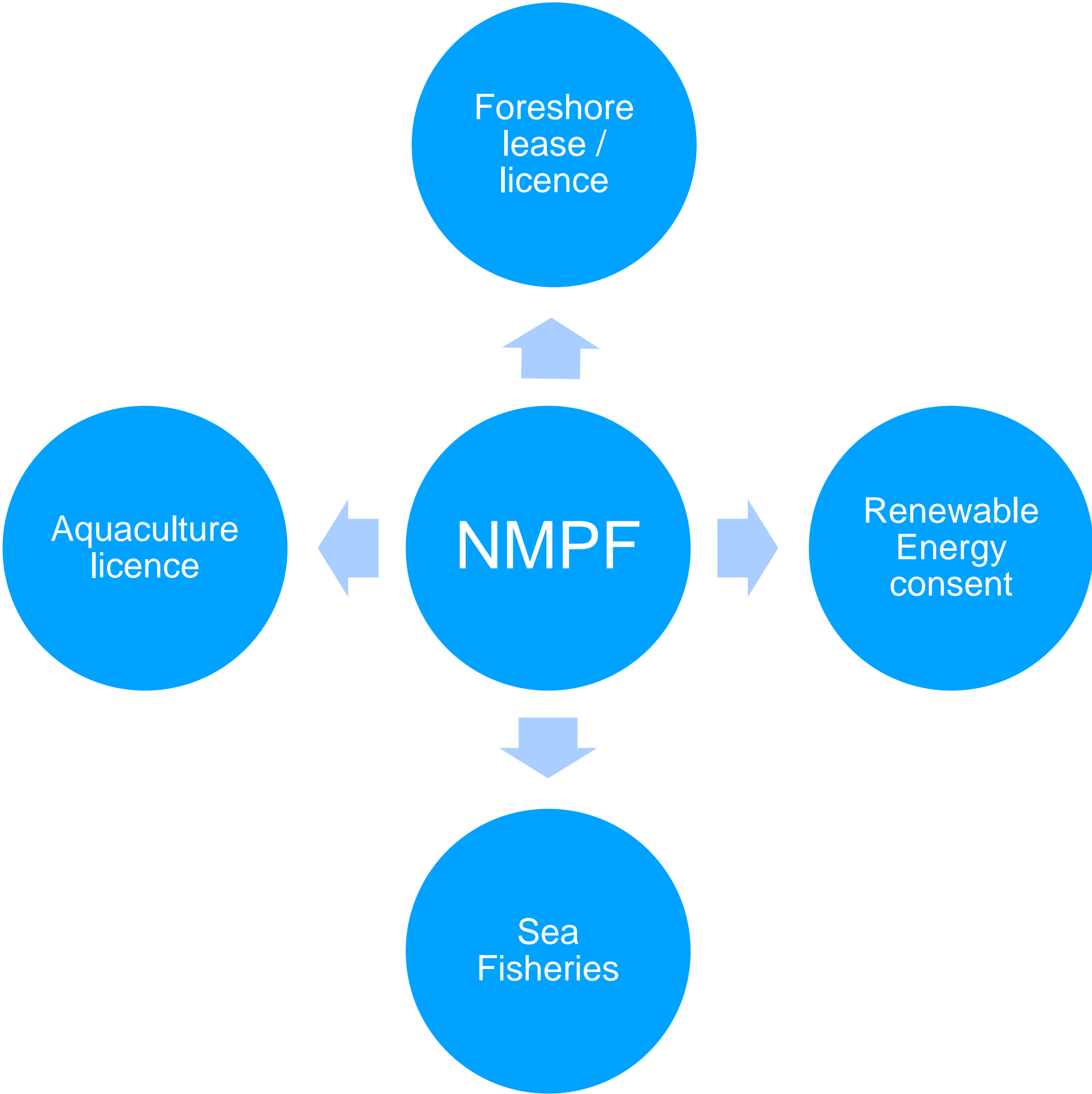


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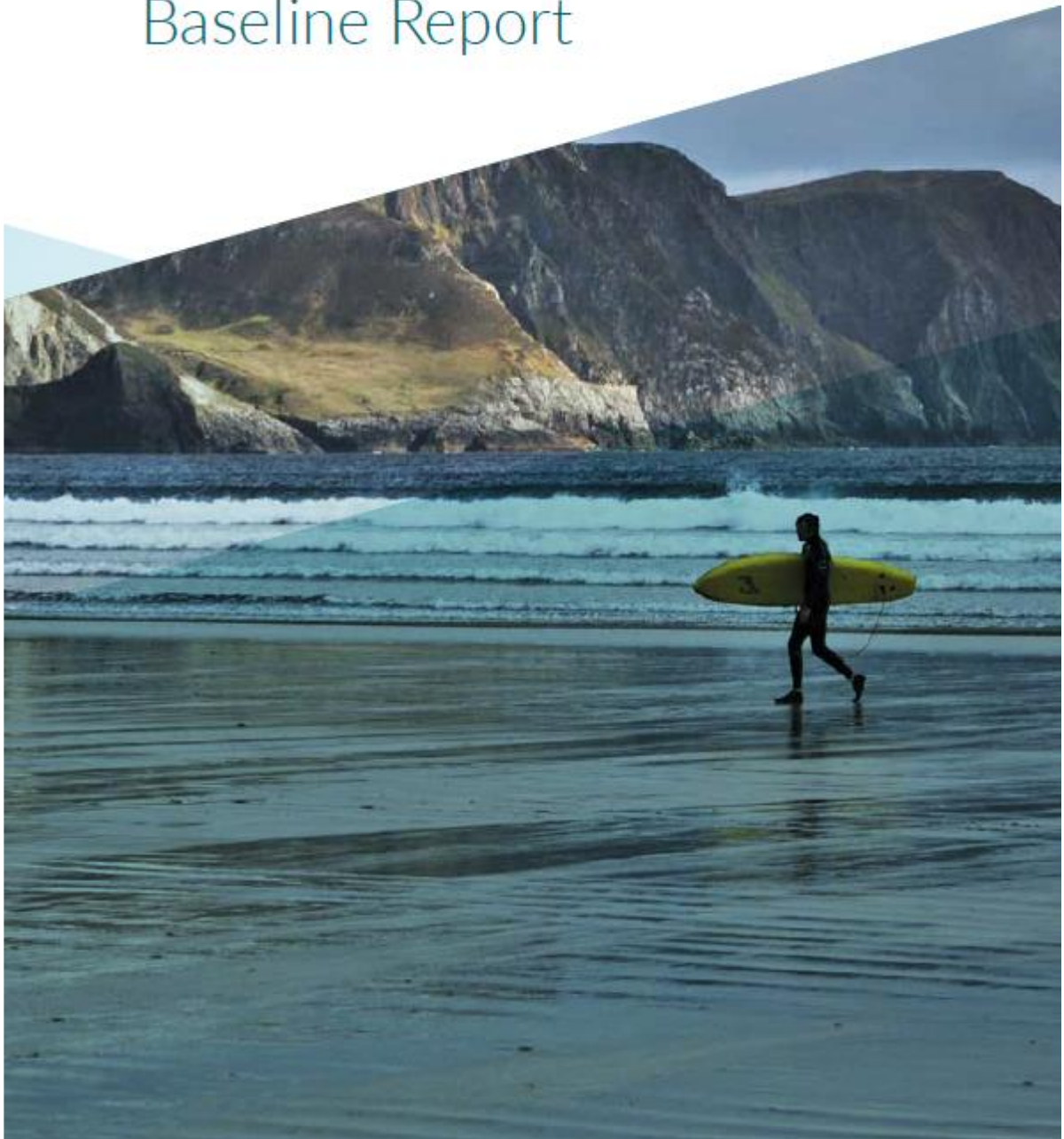


NMPF in practice – basis for all decision-making in marine regulation



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National Marine Planning Framework – where are we now?

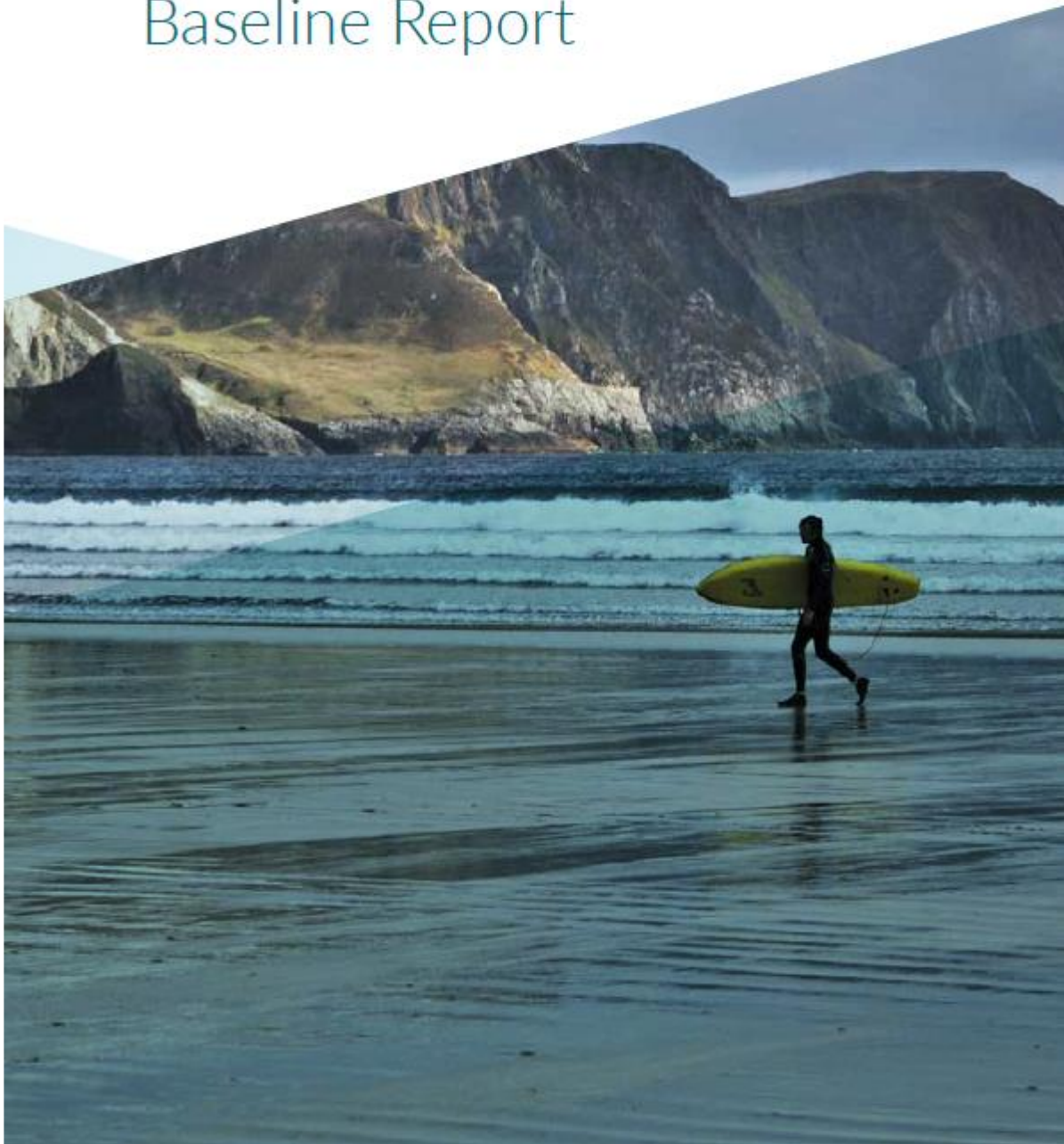


Stage	Milestone	Timeframe
Activation Stage	Establish and resource MSP function in Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	Immediate – complete
	Identify and initiate contact with key stakeholders	Now – end 2017
Development Stage	Establish MSP Inter Agency Group	End November 2017
	Develop road map – <i>Towards a Marine Spatial Plan</i>	Publish before end 2017
	Initiate contact with broader external stakeholder group (e.g. energy industry reps, fisheries, coastal communities etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In writing before end 2017 • Regional workshop/stakeholder fora Q1 2018
	Prepare issues paper (this phase includes collection, mapping and analysis of data on current conditions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish September 2018 • 2 month consultation
	Prepare draft MSP (including Environmental Assessments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Minister/Government Q2 2019 • 3 month consultation
Finalisation Stage	Prepare final MSP (including Environmental Assessments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Minister/Government Q2 2020 • Publish and notify European Commission – Q3 2020
Implementation and Review Stage	Implementation and review	2020 onwards



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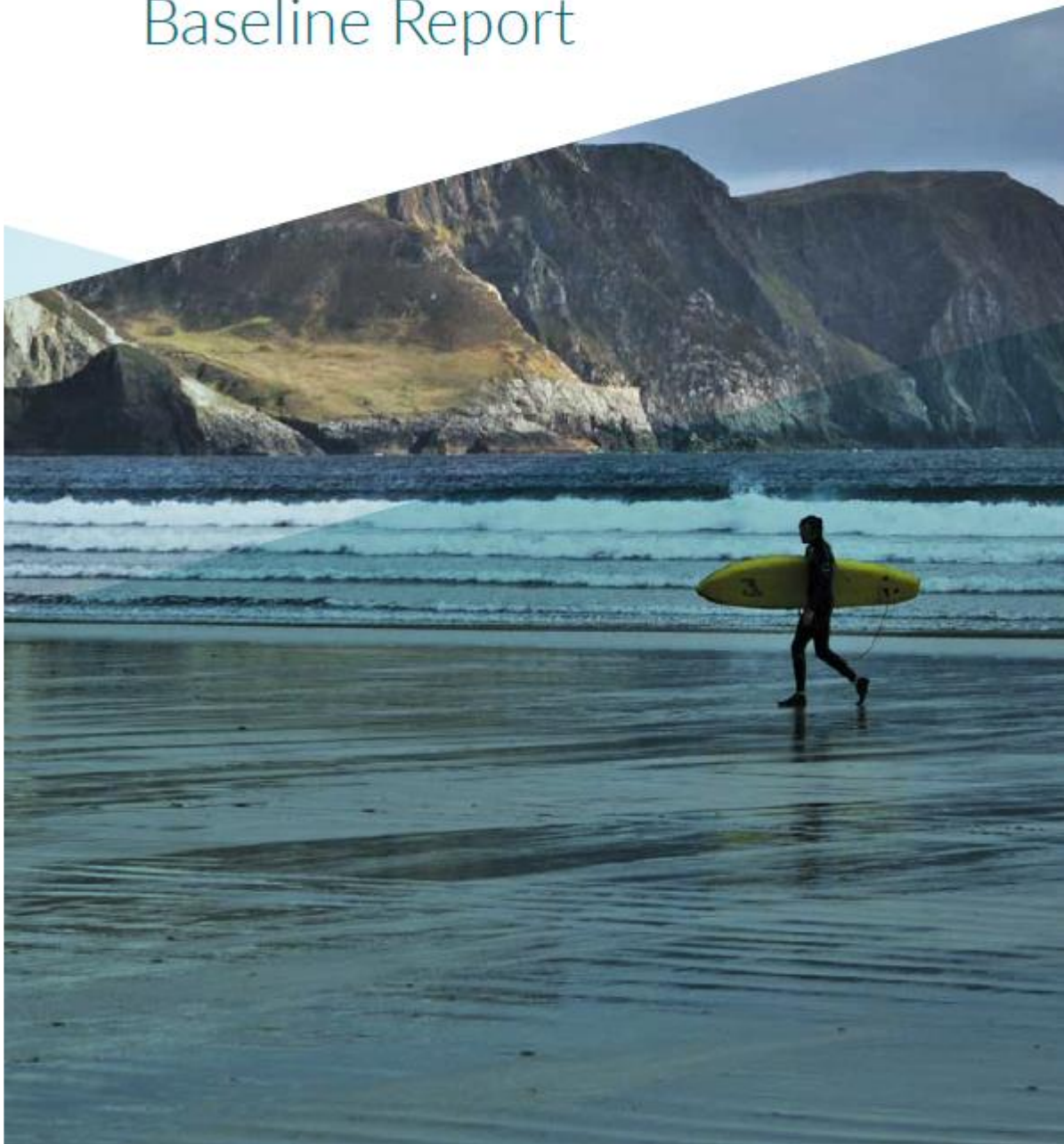


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NMPF – Baseline Report – what?



Flagged as ‘issues’ paper in MSP Roadmap – December 2017

It sets out:

- the policy, legislative and regulatory context for Marine Spatial Planning;
- a description of the “as is” situation in terms of existing sectoral development and activities in Ireland’s maritime area;
- an initial elaboration of potential high level objectives; and
- A number of consultation questions or issues intended to prompt discussion and consideration amongst stakeholders.
- Big questions include: To zone or not to zone (for ORE and others)?



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NMPF – Baseline Report – content



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NMPF – Baseline Report – some key questions



- (draft) High Level Objectives – appropriate balance of environmental, social, economic?
- Have we identified all uses / activities that need to be planned for? What have we missed?
- Climate change – how can we ensure that the NMPF supports ambitious adaptation / mitigation measures?
- Transboundary issues in post-Brexit world.
- Spatial designation – zoning or not?



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NMPF – Baseline Report – spatial designation



One of a broad range of management actions that may be utilised in marine planning and management. It may be used for a range of purposes:

- To provide protection for biologically and ecologically important habitats, ecosystems, and ecological processes;
- To spatially separate conflicting human activities or to co-locate compatible human activities;
- To protect the natural values of the marine management area while allowing reasonable human uses of the area;
- To allocate areas for reasonable human uses while minimizing the effects of these human uses on each other and nature; and
- To preserve some areas of the marine managed area in their natural state undisturbed by humans except for scientific or educational purposes.

Zoning is one of a range of ways to achieve objectives in marine planning. Varying views – pros and cons...many examples already exist.

The final spatial designation product in a large multiple use maritime area will be the result of compromise, accommodating a range of needs, interests, and political requirements.

Spatial designation is an integral part of all forward planning but it is not simple!



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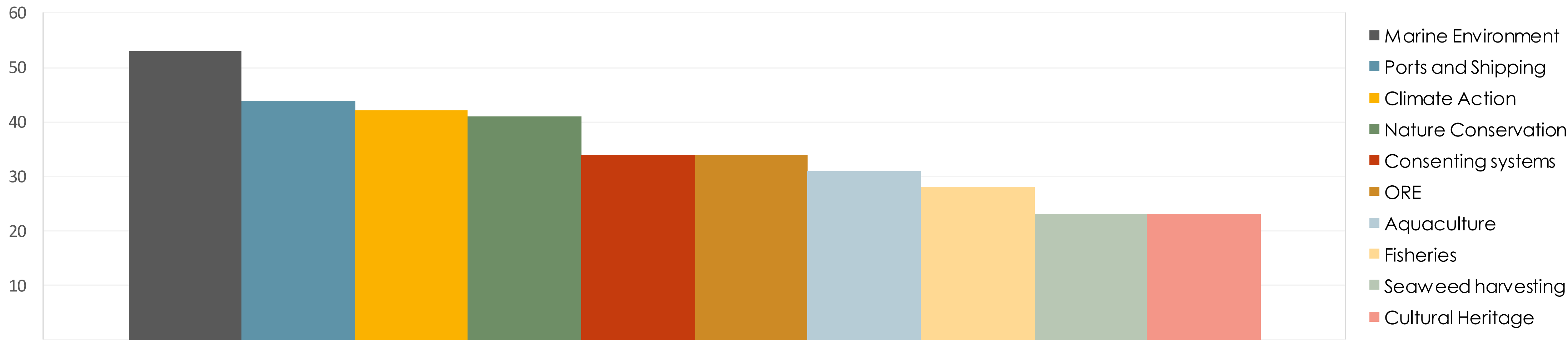


NMPF – baseline report consultation



Submissions received by topic (%)

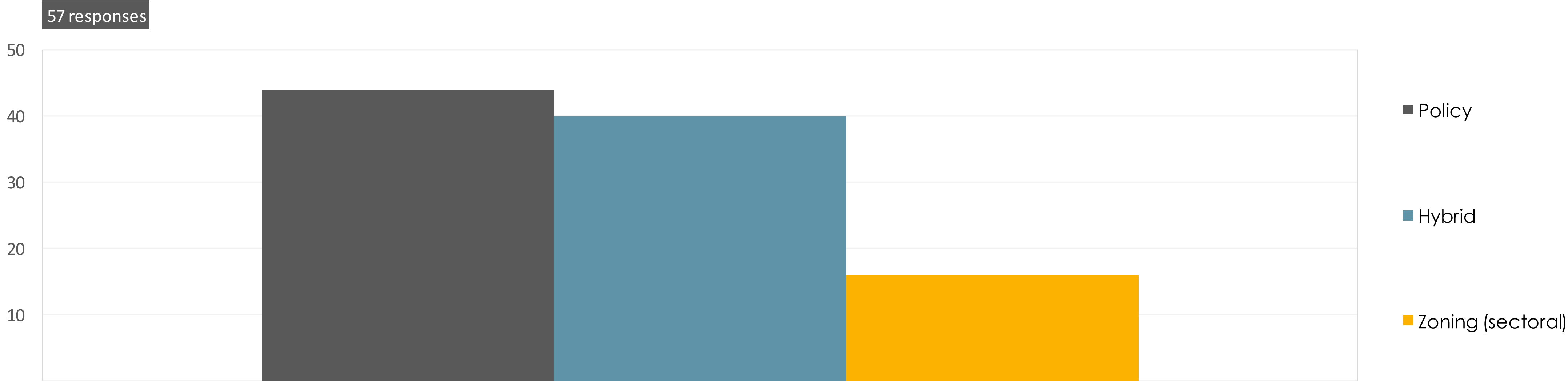
MSP Subjects



NMPF – baseline report consultation – spatial designation



Response to zoning question



NMPF – Baseline Report – sample comments on spatial designation / zoning



- *“We cannot support a proscriptive zoning approach...support policy approach and mediated agreement of sharing of spatial areas.”*
- *“A mixture of Policy based and a Zoning approach will be required. Some areas are already naturally zoned..., where other activities can be a policy based approach.”*
- *Designate a “Coastal and Marine National Park to provide a stable setting for the existing economies of the area and create new employment opportunities, therefore increasing the population of rural areas.”*
- *“Zoning, or spatial allocation at sea for various activities, is likely to feature in some way in Irelands marine spatial plan and that is to be welcomed, provided it takes account of a number of core issues.”*
- *“We believe it is somewhere in between. Zoning was seen as a tool among others. For short term delineating of a spawning or nesting area such MPA zoning is clear cut and beneficial.”*



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NMPF – next steps

- Detailed analysis of submissions received (underway).
- Discussion with relevant Departments – bilaterally, through IDG etc. (immediate) – tell us what you want / expect from the plan, having viewed relevant submissions / international examples.
- Agree broad approach(es) – commence drafting (Q1).
- Present to Advisory Group / Government (end Q2).
- Publish draft NMPF.
- SEA / AA commencing in parallel.

Get in touch – mzp@housing.gov.ie /  @MSP_Ireland



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