

# FAIR SEAS

Building a Movement of Ocean Stewardship



#FairSeas  
#30x30



# FAIR SEAS

**We are a coalition of Ireland's leading environmental non-governmental organisations (eNGOs) and environmental networks.**

We are calling for 30% of Ireland's ocean territory to be fully protected by 2030. This is our greatest chance at restoring ocean health and we must act now.

Fair Seas' aim is to see Ireland, with a renewed appreciation of the ocean, become a world leader in marine protection, giving our species, habitats and coastal communities the opportunity to thrive.





# FAIR SEAS

## Our Partners



## Our Funders



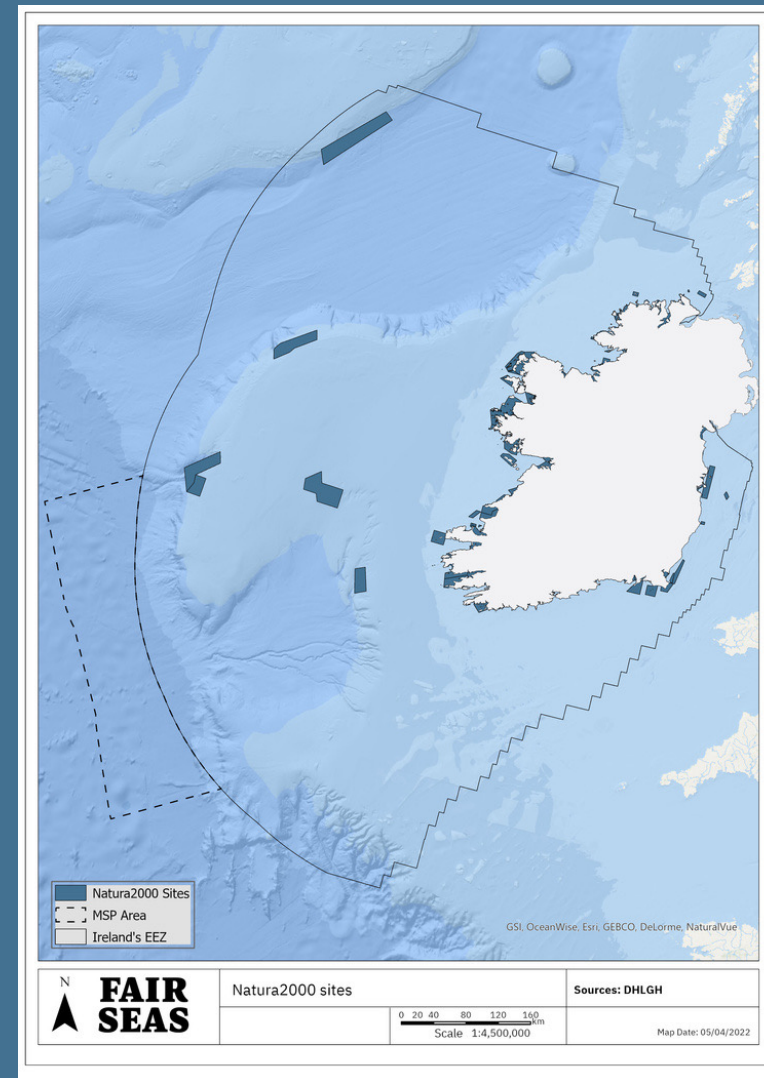


FAIR SEAS

# IRELAND'S MPAs 2022

MPA coverage: 2.1%

Little or no management in place.



SCAN ME



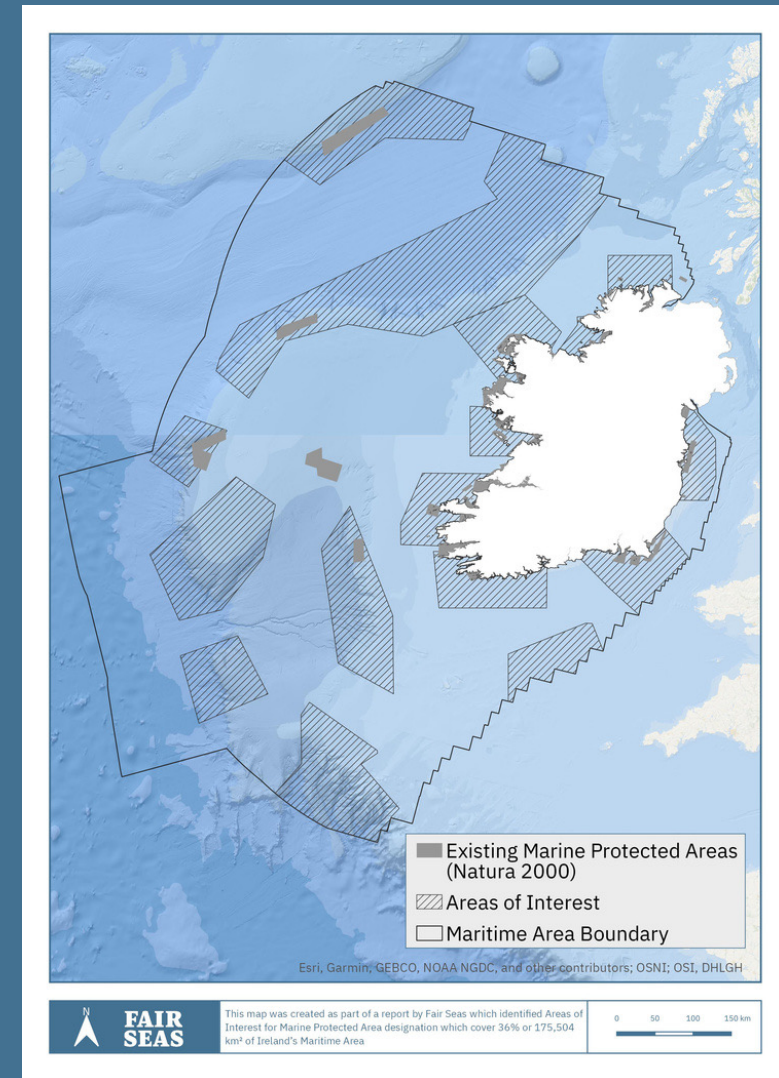
FAIR SEAS

# IRELAND'S MPAs 2030

MPA coverage: minimum 30%

Highly protected: minimum 10%

Management plans & budget

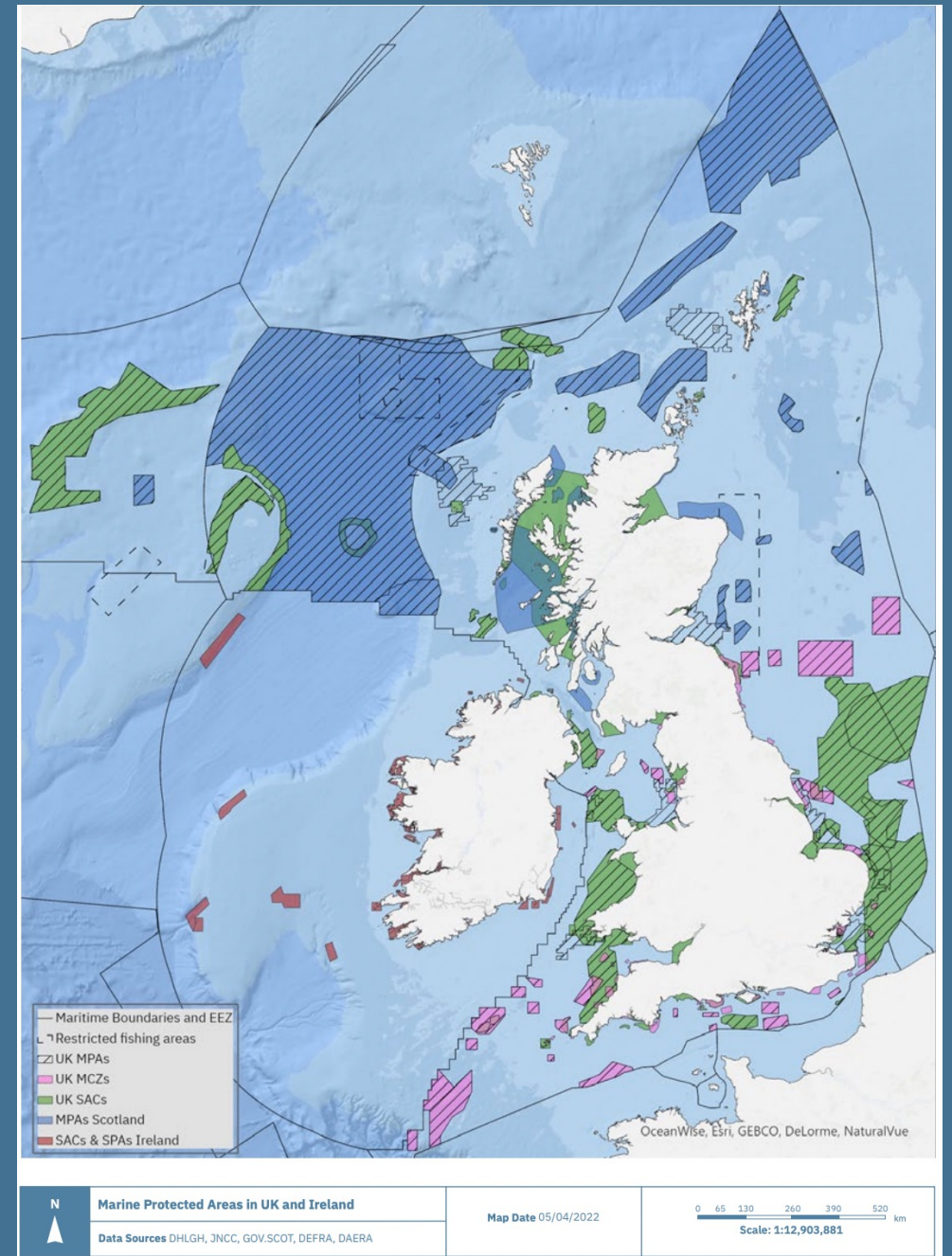


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Marine Protected Areas  
are not a new concept.

Ireland's closest neighbours have  
designated large parts of their waters  
as MPAs, MCZs, SACS & SPAs.







## FAIR SEAS

Identifying Areas of Interest  
for Marine Protected Area  
Designation in Irish Waters

Revitalising  
Our Seas

Revitalising



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Five species groups were considered in this study.

1. Cetaceans (whales, dolphins & porpoises).
2. Seabirds.
3. Elasmobranchs (sharks, skates, rays & chimaeras).
4. Commercially exploited species.
5. Seabed features.





## A group of approximately 12 surfers, mostly wearing blue wetsuits, are walking along a sandy beach towards the ocean. They are carrying their surfboards under their arms. The ocean has gentle waves breaking near the shore. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is peaceful and suggests a recreational activity in a coastal environment.

## Identifying Areas of Interest for Marine Protected Area Designation in Irish Waters



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**FAIR SEAS**

## 2.6

### Qualifying Interests

- [illegible]



Material Type	Material as % of Total Soil Area
Deep structural soil	33%
Coarse-textured topsoil	12%
Deep structural sand	12%
Coarse-textured rock and other hard substrate	16%
Coarse-textured organic sediment	3%
Soft structural rock and other hard substrates	3%
Other	2%
Unclassified	21%

Figure 2.6.6 follows the same format as Figure 2.6.5, but with the addition of the "Spatial Planning" component, which is shown in the "Spatial Planning" column.

Table 2 in 5. What  
Generalizable method  
teaching topics covered  
within training, Web  
and Journals 200

#### Identifying Areas of Interest for NPA Designation in Fresh Waters

### 3 Examples of Species of Conservation Importance

### 3.1 Seabirds

Ireland has 24 breeding species of seabird and several other species that do not breed here but spend a portion of their annual migration in Irish waters. Ireland's marine territory plays host to seabirds from every direction including north America, Europe and Africa. Many are highly migratory, widely distributed species such as the black-legged Kittiwake, northern fulmar, and Herring gull. Others have smaller ranges largely within Europe, such as the herring gull and shag.

demographic study and in some cases geolocator tags have documented annual movements and identified wintering sites (Jedidi et al., 2012). Roseate terns are at risk from hunting during the winter period in Africa, while in Europe for the breeding season, the main threats are human disturbance, predation by other birds and ground predators such as rats, as well as pollution and disease (Avery et al., 1995).



### 3.1.3 Atlantic puffin - *Fratercula arctica*

is Endangered (IUCN, 2021). Although they have an estimated European population of 1.7–4.1 million breeding pairs, the population size is understood to

There are several important colonies for these iconic seabirds in every coastline around Ireland, with the aptly named Puffin Island in Co. Kerry hosting the highest number of breeding pairs. The Seabird 2000 census showed that the Scaev Island (Kerry), Cliffs of Moher (Clare), Sallins Island (Wicklow), Bulls Rocks (Mayo), Slieve Donard (Mayo), and Vay Island (Donegal) each hosted >20% of the national breeding population (McNeill et al., 2004). Puffins are one of the most popular seabirds in Ireland for tourists and wildlife photography due to their striking appearance and the spectacular locations of their colonies.

The main drivers to this small but mighty long-distance traveller are largely associated with climate change. Rising sea temperatures and changes in the movement and availability of their food supply (Durant et al., 2003; Sandvik et al., 2005) are the main drivers behind their decline, as well as the commercialisation of their prey by commercial fishing. An insufficient supply of food greatly affects their breeding success (Stoltz International, 2012). Like other smaller seabirds that breed in Ireland

hardships make up an important portion of their diet during the breeding season, and past incidences of starvation in chicks have been directly linked to low sandeel abundance (Martin, 1990).

### 3.1.4 Black-legged Kittiwake + Herring mackerel

The largest colonies of kittiwakes are found at the CFFs of Muller (Ct. Clare) and Sanday Island (Ct. Orkney), Horn Head (Ct. Orkney) and Great Sallan (Ct. Shetland). Apart from the colony on Great Sallan, all major colonies have seen significant declines since the Seabird 2000 census, with the CFFs of Muller, Great Sallan and Horn Head breeding populations essentially halving (48.2%, 51.2% and 52% respectively) (Cummins et al., 2009).

Killifishes feed mostly on small pelagic fish such as sandeel, sprat and herring, as well as some invertebrates like squid and shrimp (Chivers et al., 2012). Therefore, unsustainable fishing practices in relation to these fish stocks are having ongoing implications for the breeding success of killifishes (Cummings et al., 2015b).

"Humans are not separate from the natural environment, but a part of it. Therefore, the approach to the designation and management of MPAs must be participatory."

The current lack of widely-accepted multi-use metrics to assess LRA, LCA and SPAs is therefore incompatible with SDN guidelines.

and features on the seafloor have increased after storms. Many organisms were excluded from the high erosion, the low erosion, and no-erosion sites have occurred. The study concluded that features based on management may not adequately predict negative features, whereas site-based management may be sufficient to protect critical habitats. The authors suggest that future research should focus on determining erosion growth and structure (Shuman et al. 2010). Fully or lightly eroded marine areas, which by default imply a white-erosion area, are the best way to protect critical habitats. The authors suggest that future research should focus on the ocean (see Figure 1, Shuman et al. 2010), coastal and offshore (see Figure 1, Shuman et al. 2010).

**The importance of public participation in WRM network design and management**

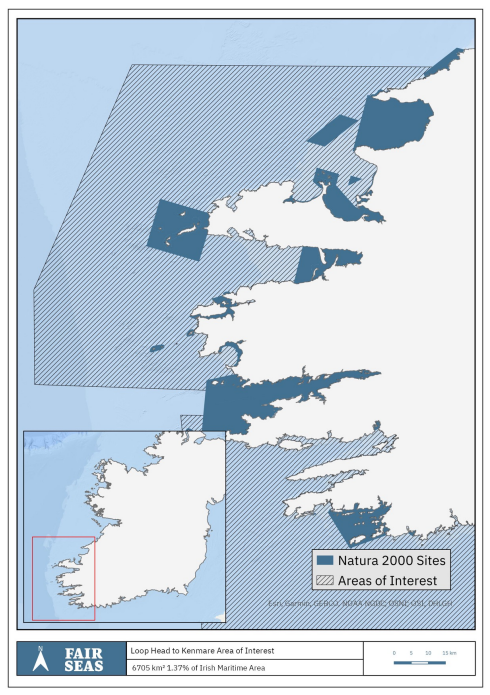
4. <http://www.journalofmathematicalbiology.com>

Booker T. Washburn  
to the Editor

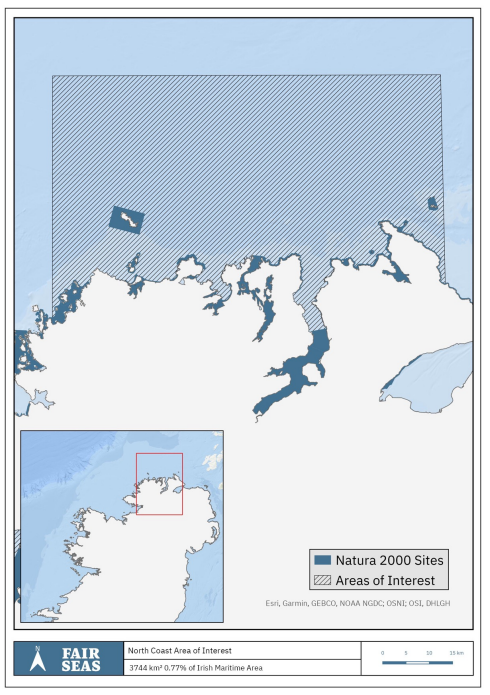




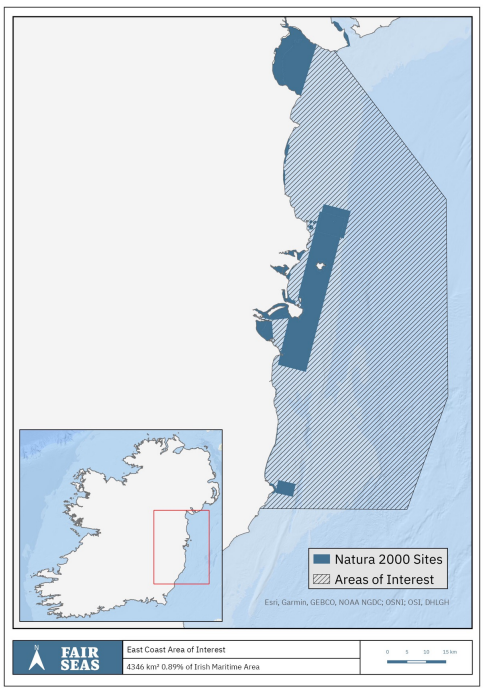
Loop Head to Kenmare



North Coast

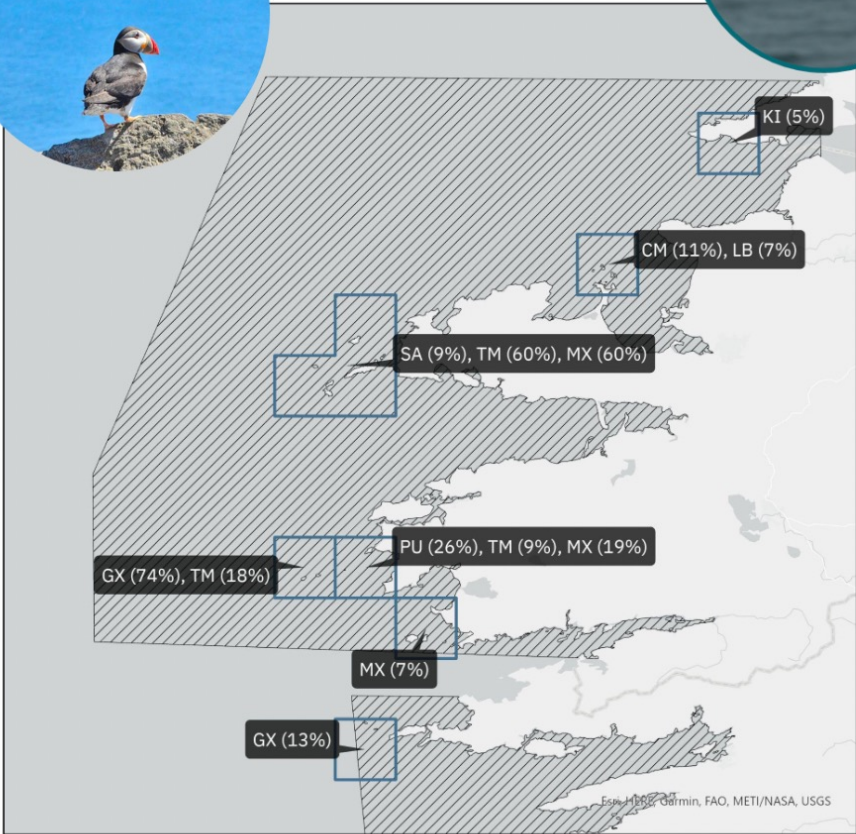
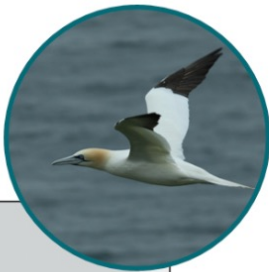
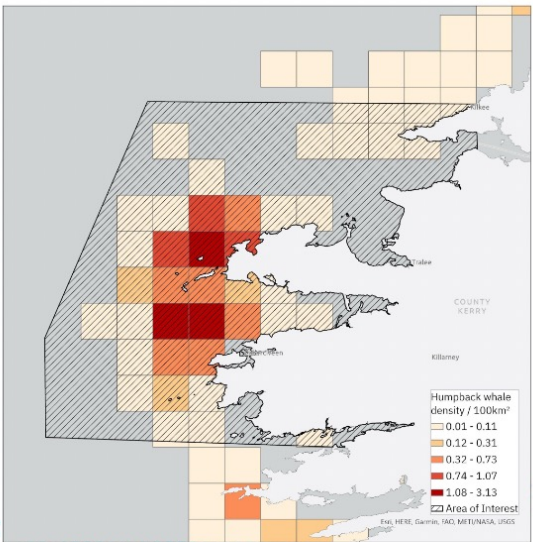
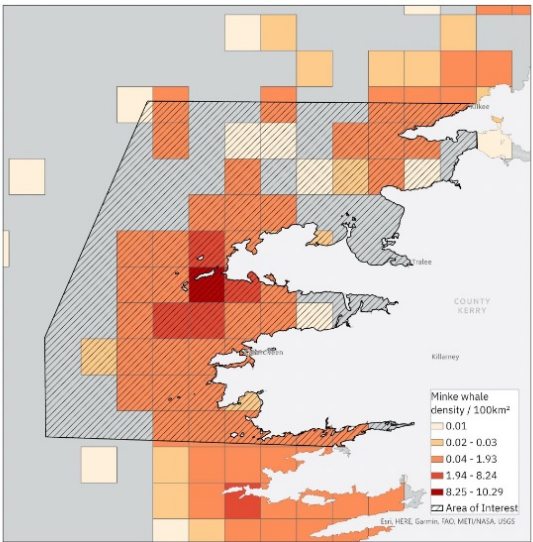


East Coast

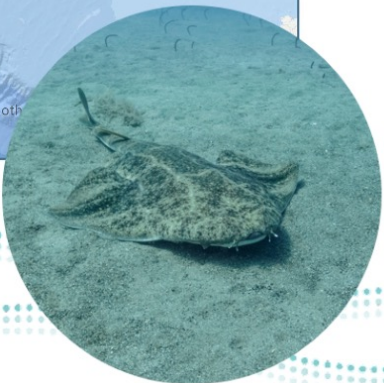
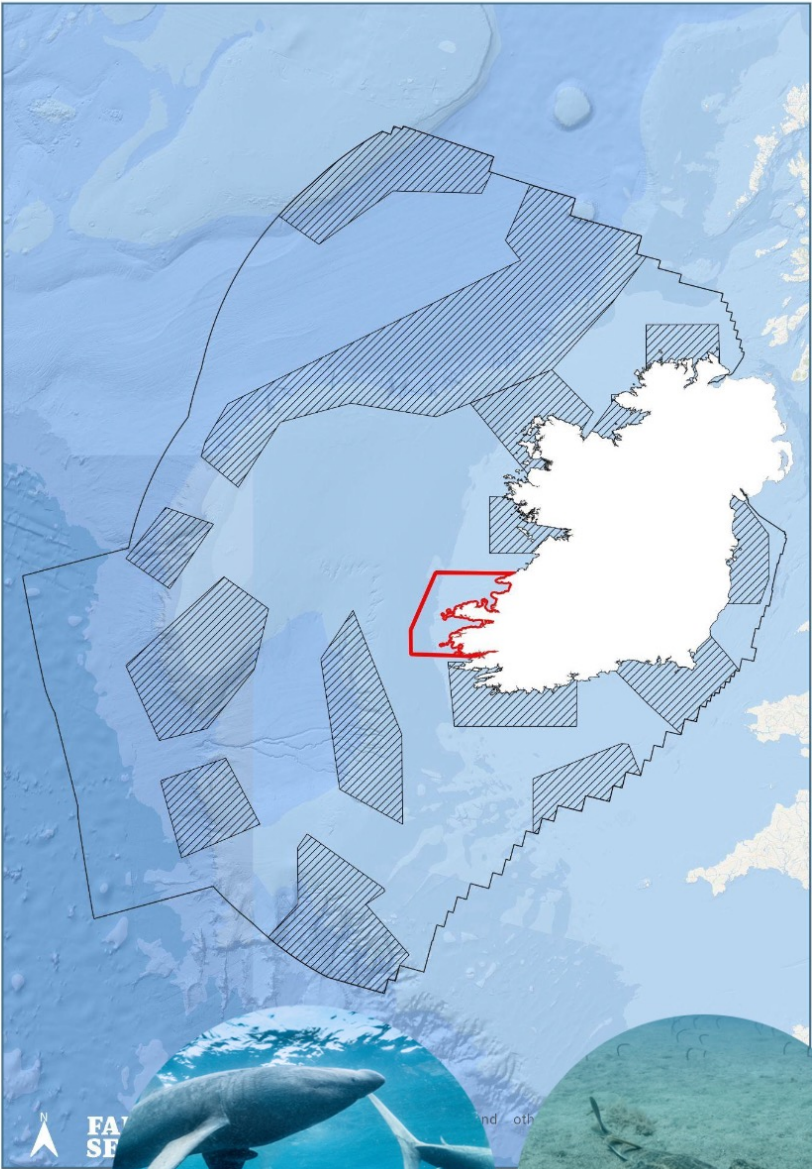




# Loop Head to Kenmare Area of Interest

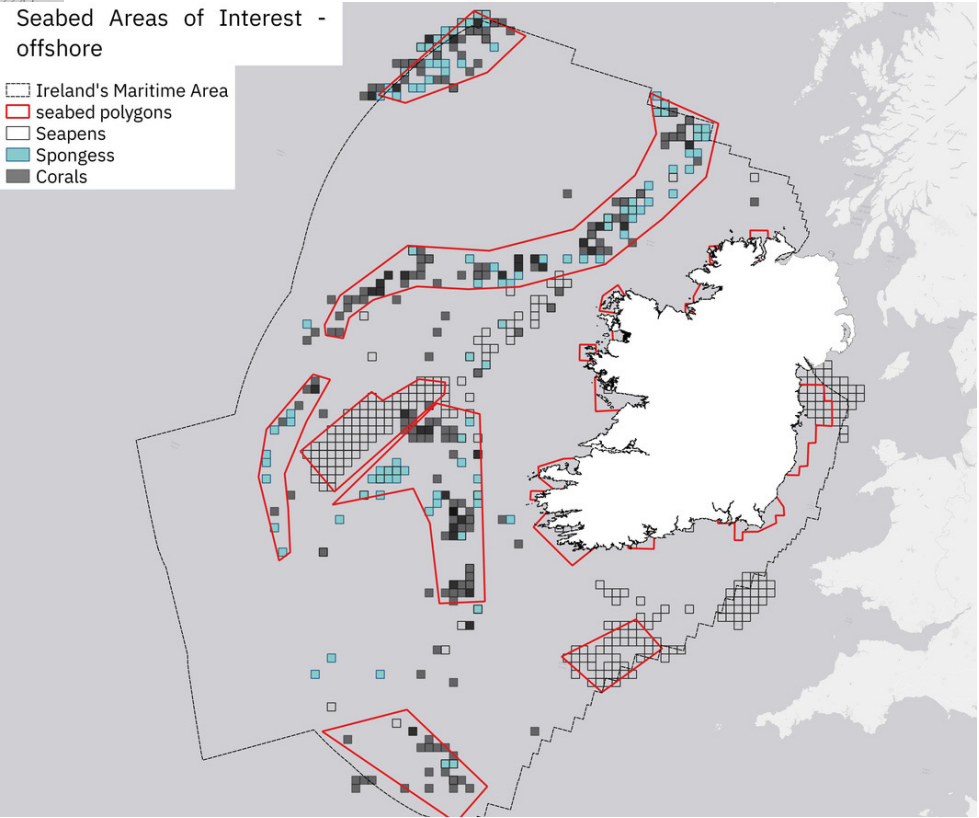
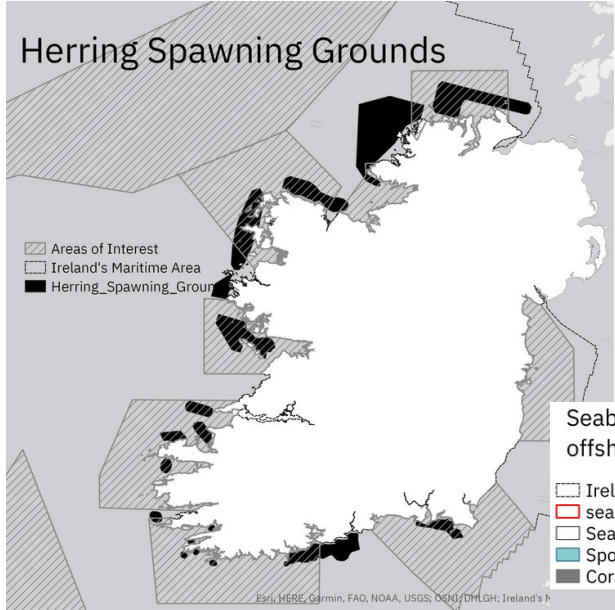


□ Nationally Important Colonies - % total breeding population displayed  
▨ Area of Interest

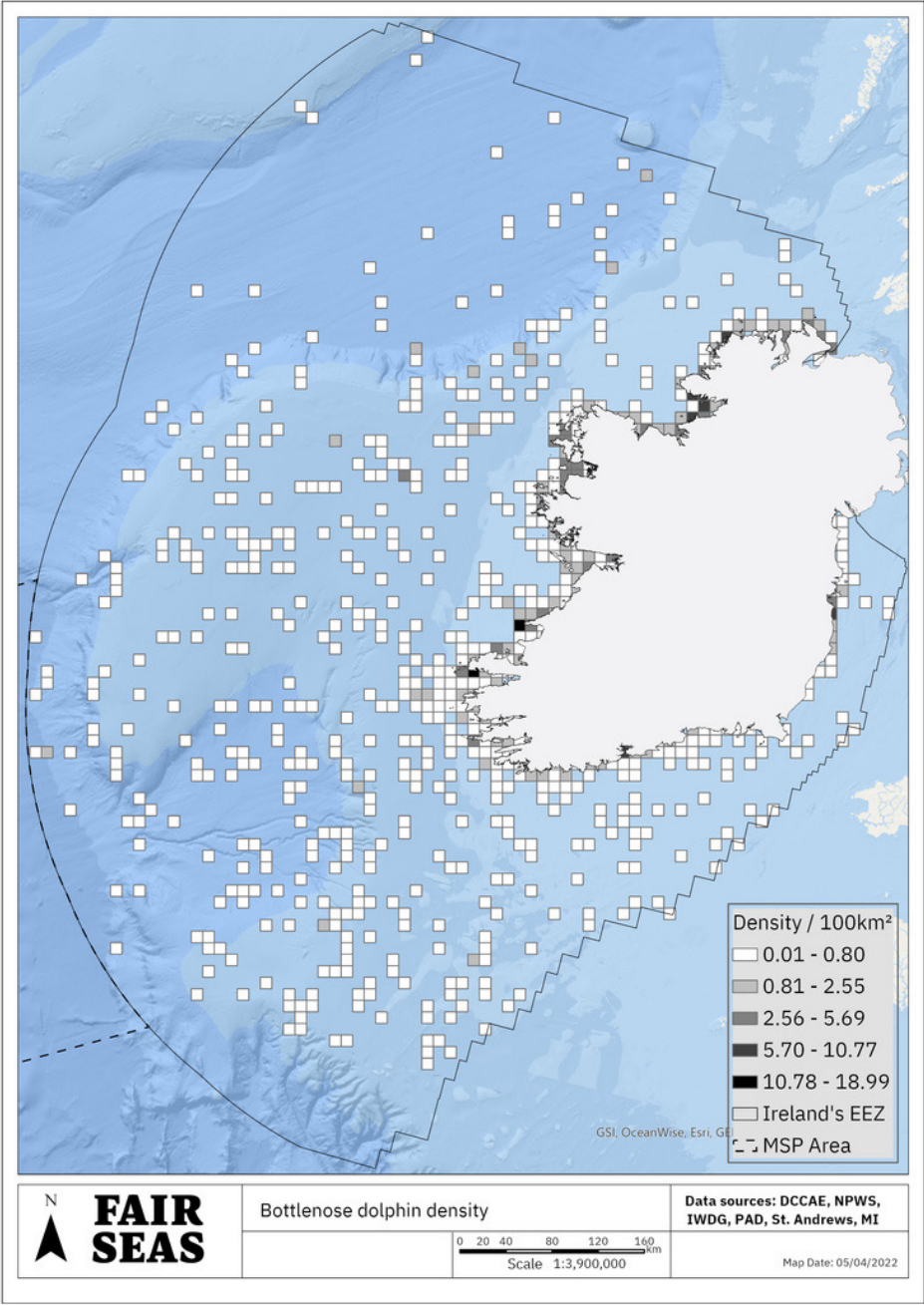




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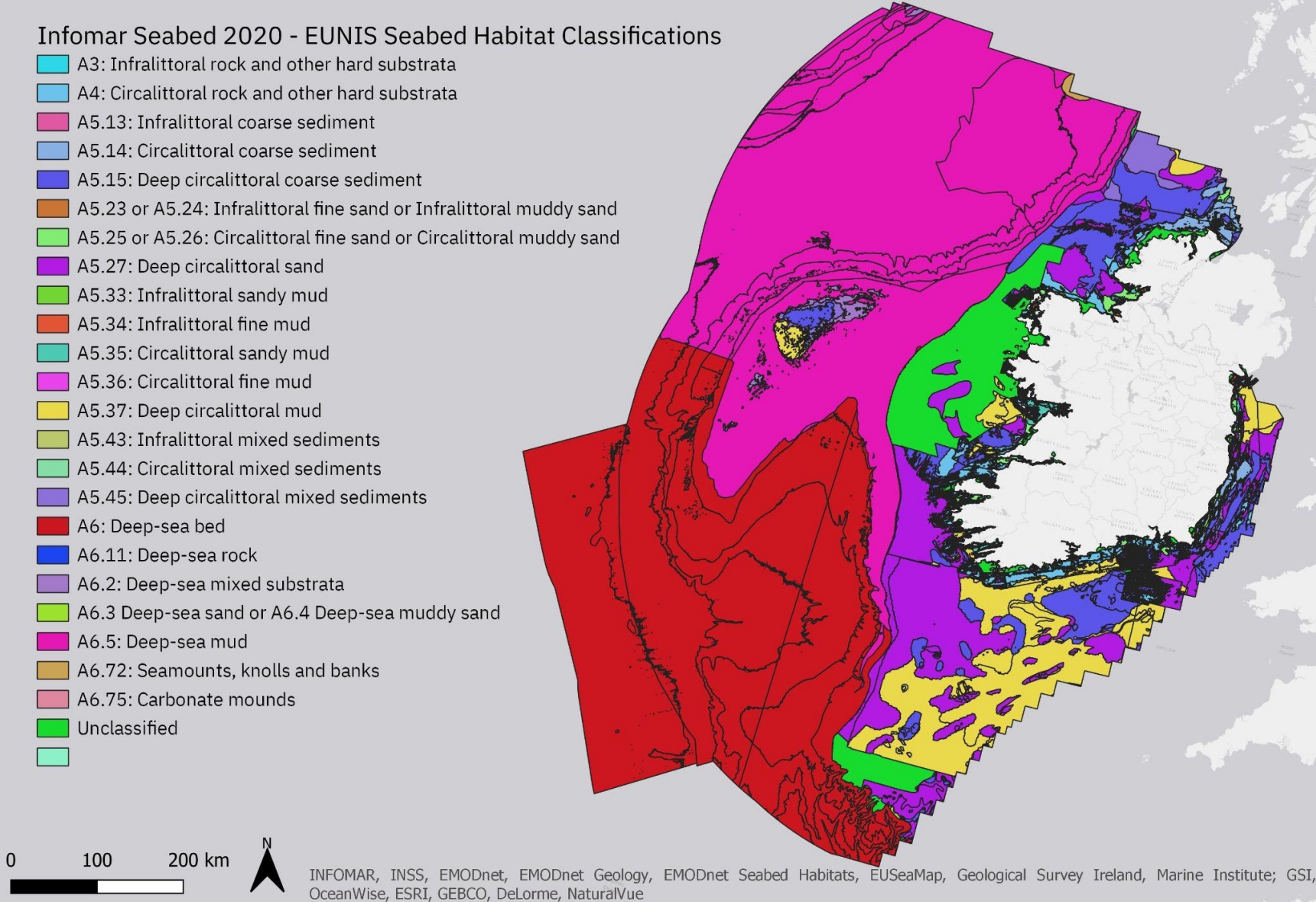
SCAN ME





The diversity of marine habitats in Ireland's waters is astounding.

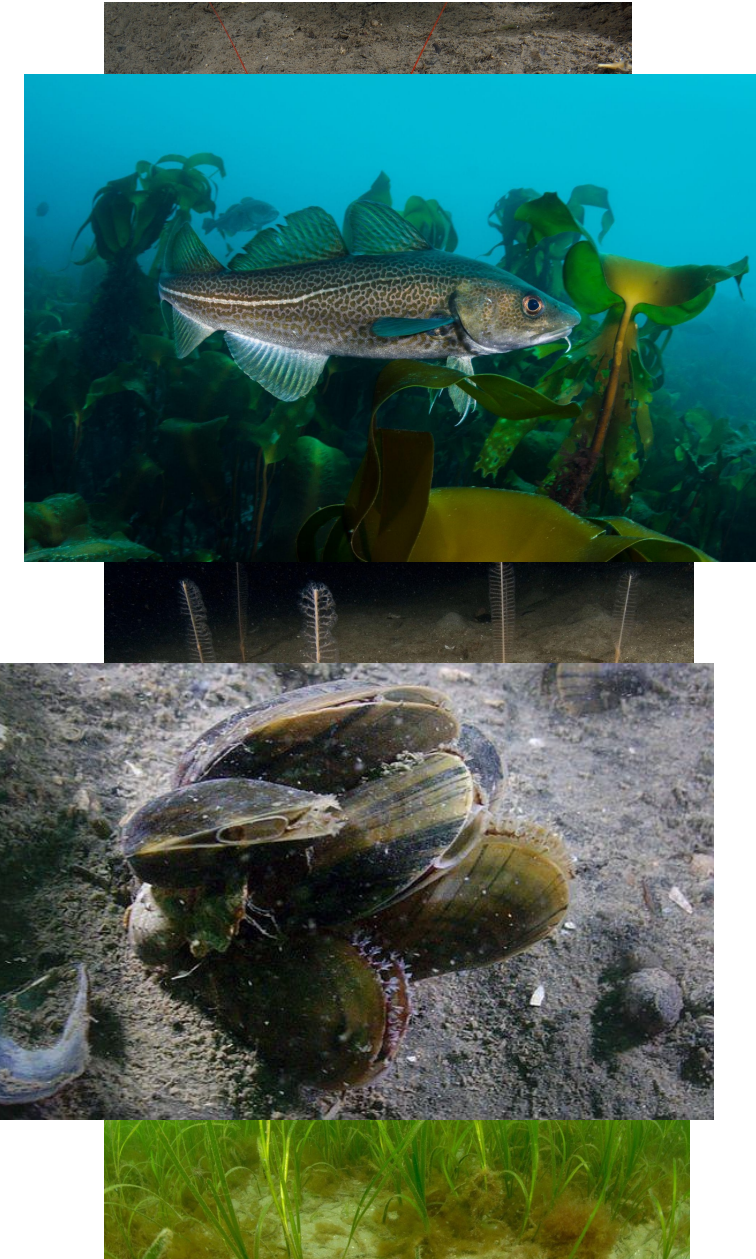
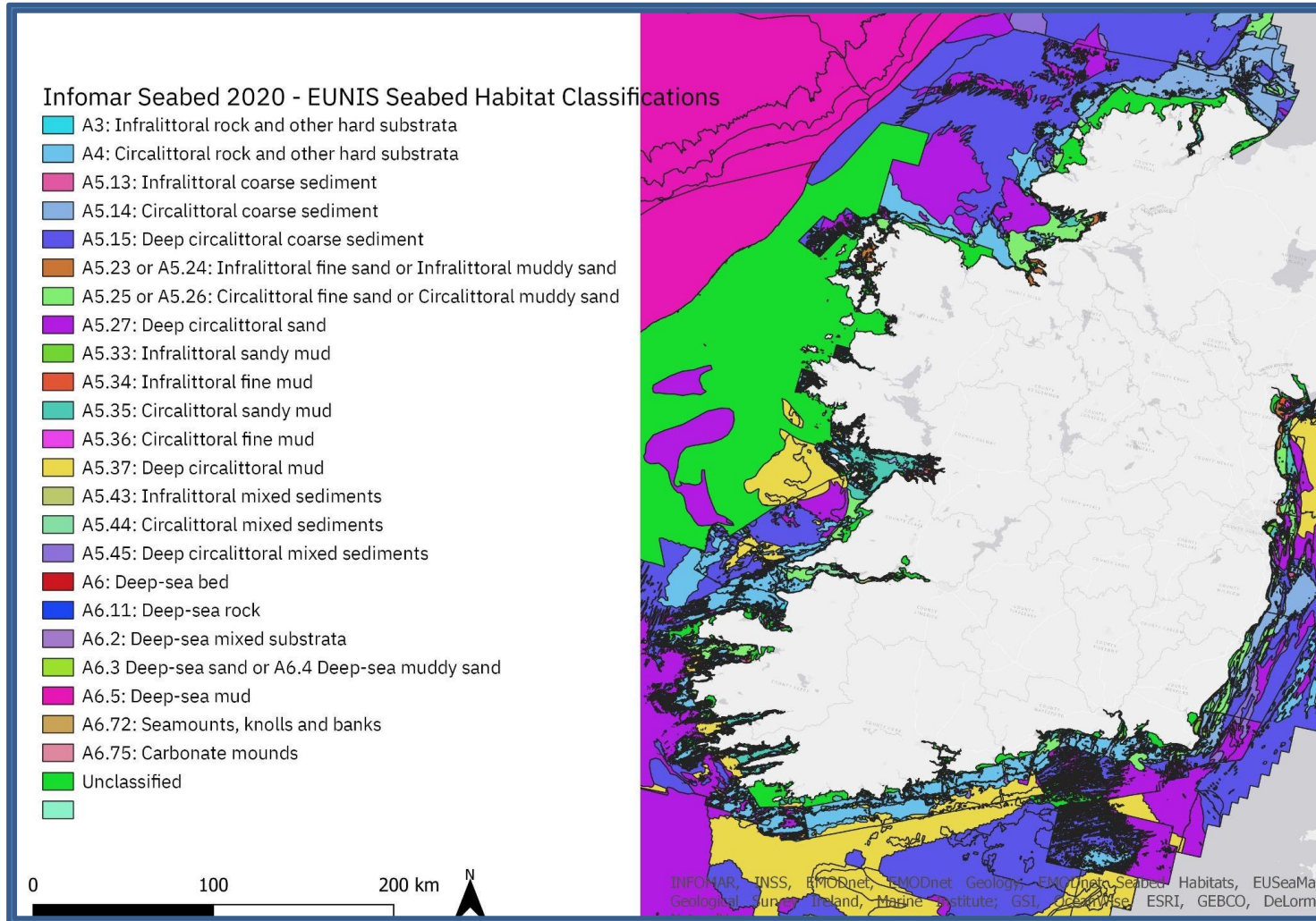
The are home to a vast array of marine life and store enormous amounts of Carbon (if undisturbed).





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The habitats of Ireland's inshore waters contribute to our high water quality and act as breeding, spawning, nursery and refuge sights for our fish and invertebrates.





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@GEORGEKARBUS



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@LIBBYDIVES



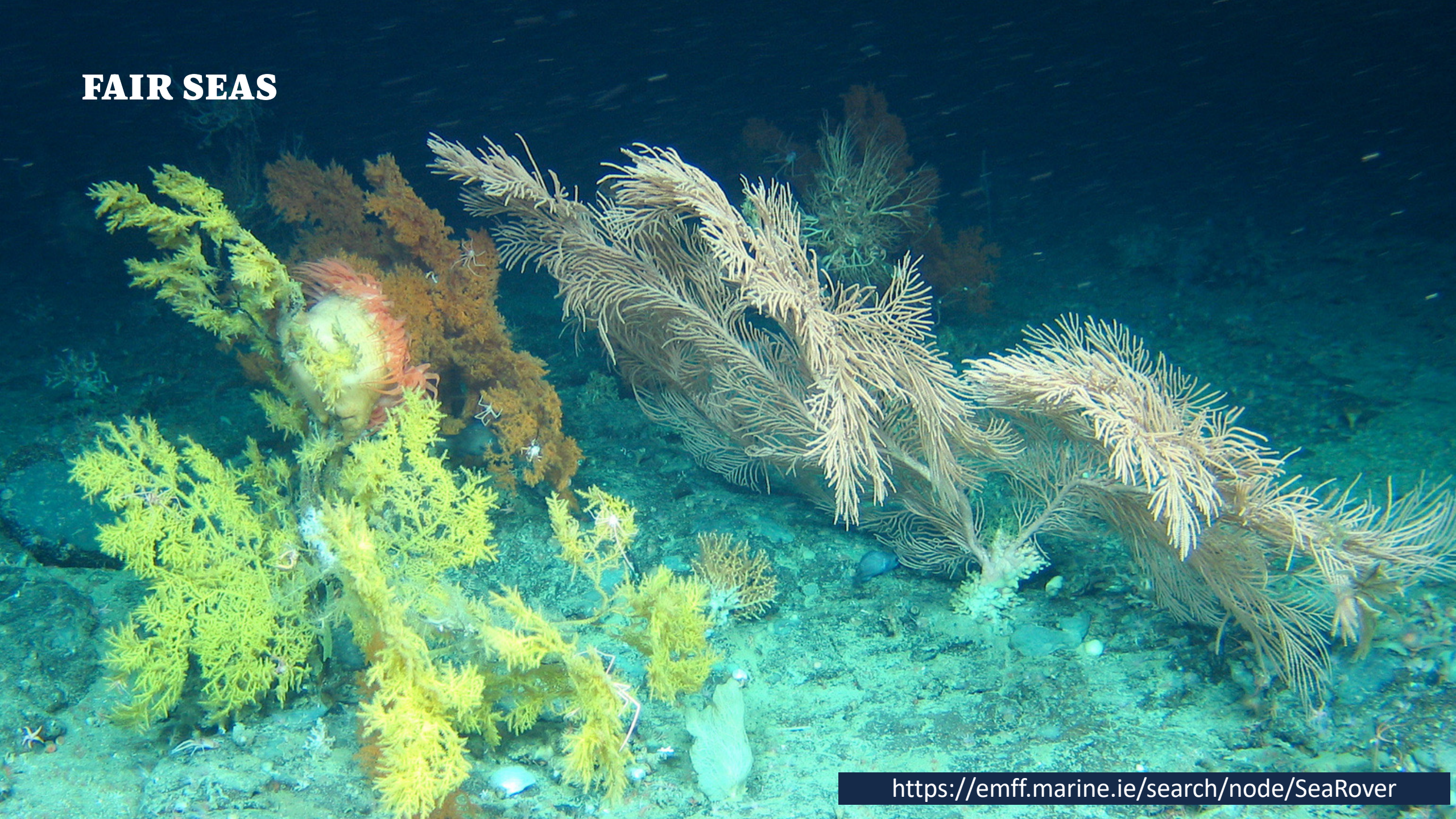
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<https://emff.marine.ie/search/node/SeaRover>



**FAIR SEAS**



<https://emff.marine.ie/search/node/SeaRover>



# FAIR SEAS

We've been out listening too our coastal communities.





# FAIR SEAS

## How aquaculture can help restore biodiversity.

Iarfhlaithe Connellan, Red Bank Shellfish, Aughnish Bay, Galway.





# FAIR SEAS

We've met with all Ireland's major political parties.







# FAIR SEAS

Marine Protected Area Bill was published in December 2022 and is currently undergoing pre-legislative scrutiny by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

The finalized bill is set to be published by July 2023.

 gov.ie

[Departments](#) [Consultations](#) [Publications](#) [Policies](#) [Languages](#) 

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Publication


## General Scheme of Marine Protected Areas Bill 2022

From [Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#)  
Published on 16 December 2022  
Last updated on 16 December 2022

On the 13th of December 2022 the government approved the General Scheme of a Bill to provide for the designation and effective management of Marine Protected Areas. This general scheme will be referred to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing Local Government and Heritage.

Part of

[Policies](#)  
[Marine](#)

 PDF

### General Scheme of Marine Protected Areas Bill 2022

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# FAIR SEAS

Fair Seas has published to useful documents relating to the MPA bill that can be found at [www.fairseas.ie/News](http://www.fairseas.ie/News)

1. A White Paper
2. A Legal Handbook

## FAIR SEAS

### **Forthcoming Legislation for Marine Protected Areas in Ireland.**

A White Paper

### **Expanding Ireland's Marine Protected Areas.**

A Legal Handbook

[www.FairSeas.ie](http://www.FairSeas.ie)

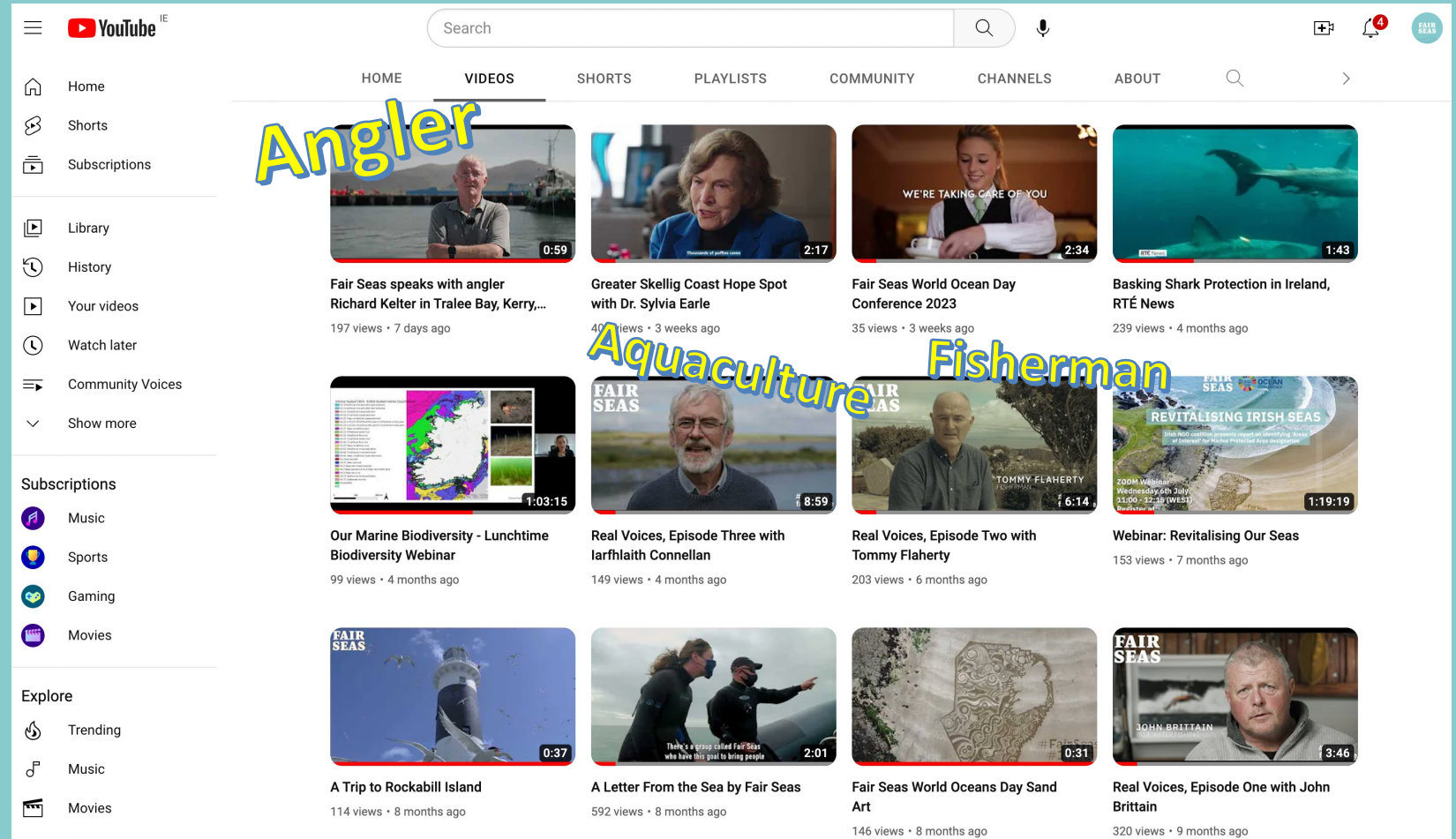


# FAIR SEAS

Have you watched our community voices videos?

So far we've heard from:

- Anglers
- Aquaculturists
- Fishermen
- Seafood producers
- Divers
- Tour boat operators
- And many more...





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SEAS**

# **WORLD OCEAN DAY CONFERENCE**

**JUNE 8TH 2023**

**CORK CITY HALL, IRELAND**

**Bringing together ocean advocates, government, industry and key stakeholders to map out the next steps for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Ireland. Sessions will focus on designation and management, learning from best practices around the world.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

*ADD TO  
YOUR  
CALENDAR*





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Go raibh maith aguibh.

Get monthly  
email updates



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#30