

QA

Who is working on this project?

Seven organisations from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland are collaborating on the MarPAMM project to deliver effective management of Marine Protected Areas across regional and national borders.

The partnership brings together statutory organisations (Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Marine Scotland, and Scottish Natural Heritage) with academic institutions (University College Cork, Ulster University, Scottish Association for Marine Science) and a Non-Governmental Organisation with proven expertise in a relevant field (BirdWatch Ireland).



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How can I find out more?

This €6.4 million project is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Match-funding has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring Project

www.mpa-management.eu



What is the MarPAMM project about?

MarPAMM is a €6.4 million EU funded cross-border environment project to develop new tools for monitoring and protocols for managing a number of protected coastal marine environments in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland.

From 2018 to 2022 more than 40 people from seven partner organisations with diverse expertise and experience in marine conservation, marine research, habitat mapping, modelling, stakeholder engagement, project management and communication are collaborating to support effective management of protected marine species and habitats where cooperation between different administrations is essential or beneficial.

Project partners initially collate data on the abundance, distribution and movement of marine protected species and habitats.

These data will be used to produce new habitat maps and models for a range of species, including connectivity assessment for species with mobile life stages.

Working with stakeholders and including information from our sister projects COMPASS and SeaMonitor, these tools will guide the generation of management plans for specific Marine Protected Areas across the region.

MarPAMM is coordinated by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute in Northern Ireland.



What will the MarPAMM project deliver?

4 models:

A regional sea bird model

A regional model of protected seabed-dwelling species and habitats

A seal foraging and underwater noise model

A coastal processes model



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6 management plans for the following areas:

Argyll region

Outer Hebrides region

Murlough Special Area of Conservation

Carlingford Lough Special Protection Areas (cross-border)

Co Down - Co Lough region (cross-border)

North Coast Ireland - North Channel region (cross-border)



Why are you doing this work?

A healthy marine environment is a major life-support system for our planet and delivers a wealth of resources and services to people. Industrialisation and growing human populations, however, are putting increasing and cumulative pressures on our seas.

In response to evidence of degradation and public concern, governments have been developing measures to protect marine species and habitats in a variety of ways. One such measure is the designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland have independently designated Marine Protected Areas and are developing monitoring protocols and management plans for these sites. Species and habitats, however, do not always abide by borders.

To manage mobile species and cross-border sites neighbouring regions and countries need to work together. A cooperative approach would also mean we can learn from each other and improve practices and outcomes. There is also evidence that MPAs may be more effective if they are set up and managed as networks.

MarPAMM plans to address these issues to improve how we protect mobile species and cross-border marine habitats in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.



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