

IRELAND – Update on National matters for IALA Council 04

- **Provision of General Aids to Navigation**
 - Ireland met all IALA availability requirements for general AtoN in 2025 to fulfill the IMO coastal state requirement for Ireland under SOLAS V/13.
 - Critical capital upgrade works were completed at two Category 1 lighthouses marking the approaches to two of Irelands major ports.
- **Superintendence and Management of Local Aids to Navigation**
 - 1,957 local aids to navigation inspected and 27 local lighthouse authorities audited.
 - Following the development of a GIS enabled Local AtoN Management Portal by Irish Lights, 96% of Local Lighthouse Authorities are now using this automated system for quarterly reporting. IMO auditors commented on the innovative nature of this reporting system during member state audit in 2024.
- **S100 / S200**
 - Data exchange between maritime stakeholders is growing in importance and complexity. Irish Lights, Trinity House and Northern Lighthouse Board have established an S100/S200 Task Group to support the use of this new approach for sharing data with stakeholders. The task group aims to develop a roadmap for S200 adoption that supports each GLA and their respective responsibilities. The Task Group seeks to propose appropriate technical solutions that are flexible, scalable, and adaptable to future requirements and that remain compatible with UKHO and other stakeholder requirements. The Task Group will act as a central support for the introduction of this new data exchange format, reviewing effectiveness and providing training and support as required.
- **Launch of the LiGHthouse – Environmental Research Project for Lighthouses Stations on uninhabited offshore islands**
 - Irish Lights launched a new research project in April 2026. The project is funded the Environmental Protection Agency research and aims to *Implement effective 'protect and restore' environmental solutions* for offshore stations. It involves a consortium including universities, research groups and public agencies. It integrates cutting-edge geospatial mapping, seabird monitoring and innovative approaches to study six of Ireland's most remote and ecologically significant uninhabited islands. These islands, all of which are owned by Irish Lights, support globally important seabird populations and provide unparalleled natural observatories for detecting environmental change.
 - The LiGHHOUSE project will examine how historic buildings and ancillary structures can be transitioned into nature-positive spaces, supporting Ireland's commitment to protect 30% of its marine environment by 2030. The research will generate essential baseline geospatial, heritage and biodiversity datasets, while piloting new conservation approaches suited to remote island environments. The LiGHHOUSE project will contribute to evidence-based planning for, enhanced understanding of biodiversity and habitat resilience on remote islands, national priorities on Marine Protected Areas and biodiversity recovery, the adaptive reuse of lighthouse infrastructure to support natural habitats and international knowledge sharing through bodies such as IALA.

- **National Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy**
 - Ireland is developing a National Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) to achieve at least 20GW of offshore wind by 2040. The DMAP proposals were published in September 2025 and extensive public and sectoral consultations are taking place during 2026–2027. The final National DMAP is expected to be finalized and brought before government for approval by the end of 2027. The plan aims to set out a national spatial framework for offshore wind. The process is currently underway to identify sites for ORE development across the entire Irish maritime area. Specialist teams for environmental assessment, fisheries liaison, and community engagement have been appointed.

- **Marine Protected Area Legislation**
 - Ireland is advancing the Maritime Area Planning (Marine Protected Areas) (Amendment) Bill, approved to proceed in late 2025. This legislation aims to designate 30% of Ireland's marine area as protected by 2030, utilizing the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to align MPAs with established maritime spatial planning and existing Designation of Marine Area Plans (DMAPs). The primary aim is to establish an ecologically coherent network of MPAs, supporting the 30% by 2030 (30x30) initiative. The legislation covers the identification of critical species and habitats, appointment of management authorities, and the creation of strict management plans.

- **Publication of the [National Maritime Security Strategy 2026 - 2030](#)**
 - Launched in February 2026, Ireland's first-ever National Maritime Security Strategy (NMSS) 2026–2030 is a 5-year, whole-of-government action plan designed to protect Ireland's 490,000 km² maritime domain from growing geopolitical threats, including risks to critical subsea cables and energy infrastructure.