

ENERGY WEST

Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR

Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

This event is recognised as an Associated Event of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026

ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Imeacht Gaolmhar | Associated Event

Supported by:

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Energy West Convening Advisors 2026



James Glynn
Convenor | Energy Systems



Yvonne Comer
Operating Agent | Portershed



Dara Ó Maoildhia
People & Community



Rory Monaghan
Research | Engineering



Gratton Healy
Renewables Development



Cormac Madden
Large Energy / Industry



Clare Noone
Science & Climate



Alastair McKinstry
Data & Computing



Matt Kennedy
Business & Industry



Pauline O'Reilly
Heat



David Connolly
Heat



Alex Revez
Research | Community

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Imeacht Gaolmhar | Associated Event

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Imeacht Gaolmhar | Associated Event

Our Vision

We see the West of Ireland as a global beacon for clean energy, where community, innovation and policy align to create a fairer, more sustainable future.

From Galway's Atlantic edge, we are building a place where the world comes to learn, test, and be inspired, a place rooted in local strength and reaching toward global leadership. We start local, grow together and lead by example.

Our Mission

To spark a just and inclusive energy transition in the West of Ireland by amplifying local voices, shaping bold policy, and unlocking the region's power to lead in clean energy innovation.

We bring people, ideas and influence together to empower communities, strengthen strategic planning, and build energy resilience through insight, collaboration and action

Our Values

Purpose-Driven Progress

We act for the long-term good of people, place, and planet.

Every step we take serves the public interest, fuels inclusive prosperity and respects planetary boundaries. We accelerate a clean energy transition that is just, lasting and aligned with what matters most.

Evidence with Empathy

We lead with science and listen with care

We cut through noise with clarity and transparency, grounding decisions in data while honouring lived experience. We balance rigour with respect in everything we do.

Cathedral Thinking, Strategic Doing

We build for generations and act with focus.

Like the cathedral builders of old, we think long-term. We plan for legacy, resilience and systems change, while making smart, practical decisions that drive immediate impact.

Our Values

From West to World

Rooted in the West of Ireland, ready for the world.

Our strength begins locally, but our vision is global. What we pilot here, models partnerships, ideas, we share widely to shape the future of energy far beyond our shores.

Inclusive by Design

Everyone has a stake and a say.

The energy transition must benefit all, not just a few. We open doors, dismantle barriers, and amplify diverse voices, co-creating solutions with communities, not just for them.

Agenda

15:00 - 15:05 - Welcome and Introduction - James GLYNN

15:15: SmartBay Observatory and Ireland's Marine Research Infrastructures with **Conall O'Malley**

15:45 - Irish Offshore Wind: A Surveyor's Perspective **Finn Delaney**

16:15 - Q&A and Closing Discussion

Meet the Speaker



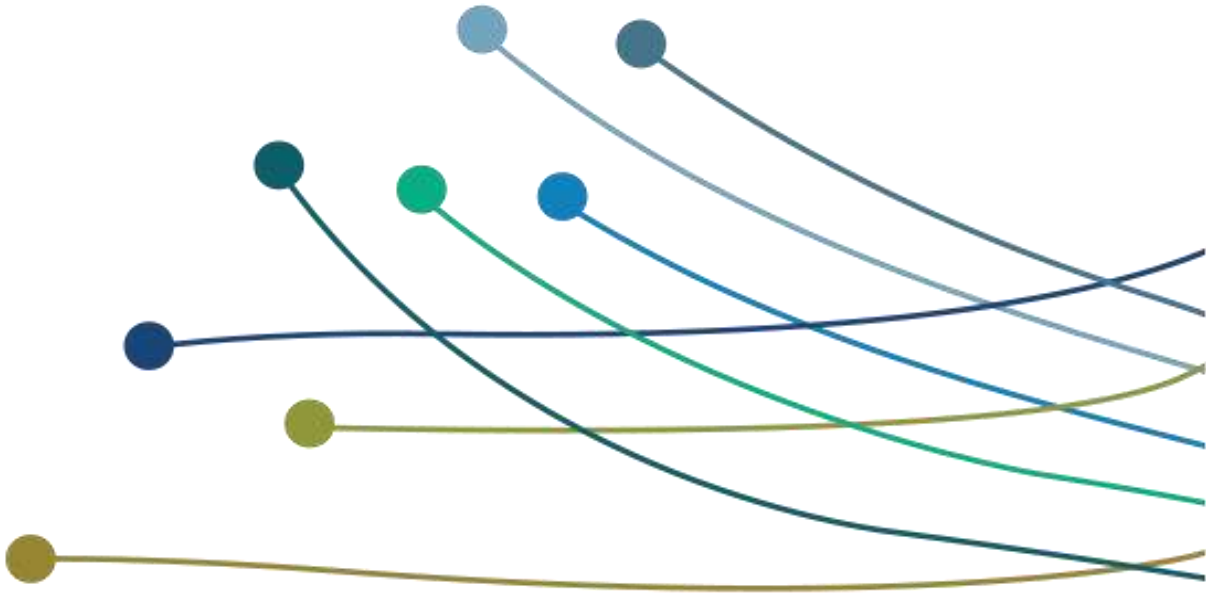
Conall O’Malley

Marine Institute
Foras na Mara

SmartBay Observatory & Ireland's Marine Research Infrastructures

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

SmartBay



Conall O'Malley
Marine Research Infrastructures
Marine Institute



Marine Institute

Irish government agency responsible for marine research, technology development and innovation.

Undertake, co-ordinate, promote and assist in marine research and development.

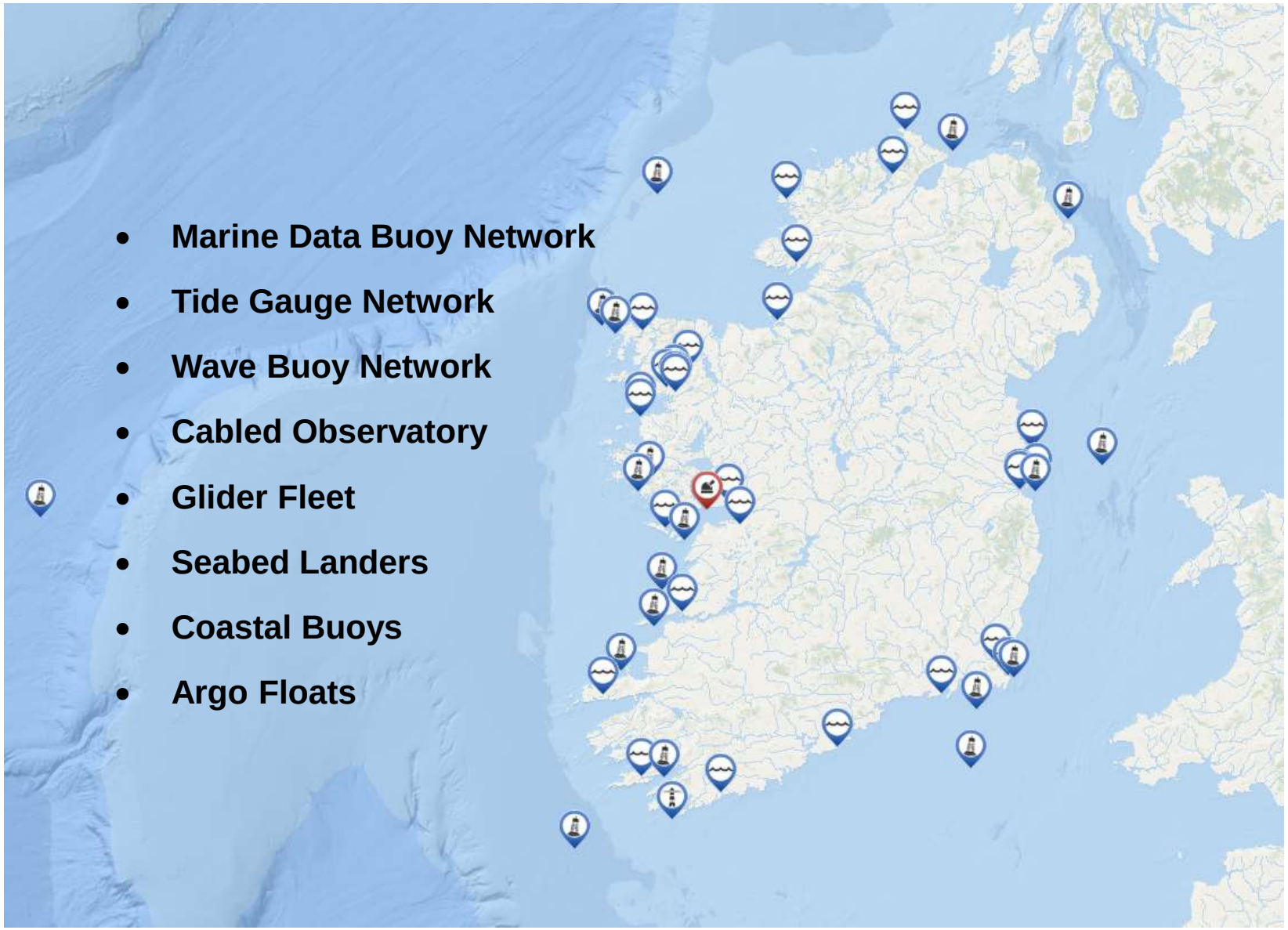
Provide services related to research and development that will

- promote economic development,
- create employment, and,
- protect the marine environment.

Irish Ocean Observing System - EirOOS

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute





- **Marine Data Buoy Network**
- **Tide Gauge Network**
- **Wave Buoy Network**
- **Cabled Observatory**
- **Glider Fleet**
- **Seabed Landers**
- **Coastal Buoys**
- **Argo Floats**

The Observing Platforms

Irish Marine Data Buoy Observation Network

- Five offshore marine observation buoys
- Established 2000 – DAFM funded ~€500k/annum
- Provide essential meteorological and sea state information
- Hourly data to European meteorological services via GTS
  - Atmospheric pressure
  - Air temperature
  - Humidity
  - Sea surface temperature & salinity
  - Sub-surface temperature & salinity
  - Wind speed & direction
  - Wave height, period & direction
- 20th Jan 2025 marked 1,000 days of 100% data delivery
- 32.3m rogue wave recorded on 28th October 2020 at M6

Journal of Marine Science and Engineering
MDPI

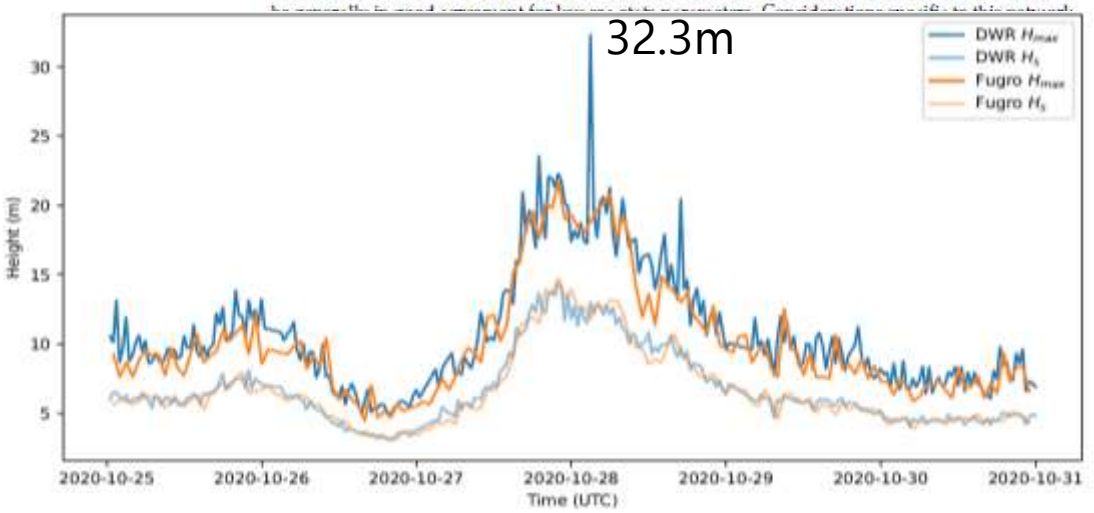
Article

Irish Wave Data—Rogues, Analysis and Continuity

Méabh Nic Guidhir [1,*], Donal Kennedy [2], Alan Berry [2], Barry Christy [2], Colm Clancy [1], Columba Creamer [1], Guy Westbrook [2] and Sarah Gallagher [1]

[1] Met Éireann, D09 Y921 Dublin, Ireland
[2] Marine Institute, H91 FW18 Galway, Ireland
* Correspondence: meabh.nicguidhir@met.ie

Abstract: The Marine Institute of Ireland operates a network of weather buoys around Ireland. A wave of 32.3 m height (crest–trough) was recorded by one of these buoys, the M6 buoy, off the coast of Ireland in October 2020. In this paper, the technological evolution of this network is explored, with a particular emphasis on this extremely high wave. Raw data and bulk parameters collected during the event are presented, and the wider met-ocean context is outlined. In addition, wave data across the buoy deployment period from dual wave sensors installed on the buoy are analysed. Differences in calculation methods are discussed, rogue incidence rates are calculated, and the sensors are found to



The Observing Platforms

RTÉ NEWS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS LIFESTYLE CULTURE PLAYER TV RADIO

NEWS ▸ Politics Regional Ireland Middle East Climate Nuacht World RTÉ Investigates Programmes

Ireland 'lucky' to escape devastating floods during Éowyn

Updated / Tuesday, 22 Apr 2025 19:56



During the storm in January, record-breaking wind gusts of 184km/h were recorded, causing an estimated €200m in damage

The country was "incredibly lucky" to avoid devastating flooding during Storm Éowyn as new research shows if it had hit Ireland a week earlier, sea levels could have reached over five metres above normal in some parts.

Irish National Tide Gauge Network

- 20 stations around the coastline (+10 rivers @Newport)
- Operational since 2005 – DAFM funded ~€60k/annum
- Freely available real-time water levels every 5 mins
  - www.irishtides.ie (actual & predicted)
  - flood forecasting
  - port / harbour operations
  - coastal engineering
  - recreational sailing
- Two high-precision GLOSS stations (Howth & Union Hall)
  - Long term monitoring of sea-level rise
  - International expert review of data accuracy
- International publications & national media coverage

The Observing Platforms

South Rockall Deepsea Mooring

- Long-term deep-water monitoring to the west of Ireland
  - Gulf Stream / AMOC
  - Climate change indicators
- Established 2019
  - (-500m to -3012m)
- Re-designed 2022
  - (0m to -500m @ M6)
  - (-1000m to -3012m)
- Co-located at M6 buoy at 3012m depth
- Coincident with annual oceanographic science cruise
  - OSPAR, ICES, GOOS, OceanSites
- EMSO ERIC pilot observatory



The Observing Platforms

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute



Irish Wave Buoy Network

- Fleet of 13 waverider buoys (6 MI, 7 SEAI)
- Operational 2008 – SEAI & project funded
- Specific data analysis for ocean energy developers
- Key data for coastal flood inundation & risk assessment
- Research projects supported:
  - Beach erosion study at Maharees, Co. Kerry (UoG)
  - Renewable energy for aquaculture barges (MOWI)
  - Seawater desalination for aquaculture (BIM)
  - Wave forces on aquaculture cage moorings (TFI)
  - Verification of CIL wave buoy readings (Met Eireann)

The Observing Platforms

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

Argo Floats

- Started 2003 - committed to Euro-Argo in 2016
- Measure essential ocean variables:
  - temperature, salinity, oxygen, chlorophyll, nutrients, etc
  - from surface to -2000m* every 10 days
- Global ocean modelling and climate monitoring
- Approx 4,000 floats worldwide from 27 countries
- 6 new Irish floats to be deployed in 2026
  - Total Irish floats deployed to date = 40
  - Currently active = 8



The Observing Platforms



Glider Fleet

- Fleet of 4 gliders (autonomous underwater vehicles)
  - 3 x operational G3 Slocum gliders (2020)
  - 1 x demonstration / outreach G1 Slocum glider (2003)
- Project based funding
- From sea surface to -1000m depth for up to 90 days
- Salinity, temperature, oxygen, chlorophyll, turbididty
  - Fish tag receivers
  - Underwater noise
  - Additional sensors also available

EMSO SmartBay Observatory

The Background

2012: Funded by Science Foundation Ireland (Marine Institute, SEAI, DCU, NUIG, UCC)

2014: SmartBay Shorestation at Colaiste Chroi Mhuire

2015: Onshore & offshore cable installation

2016: Fully commissioned

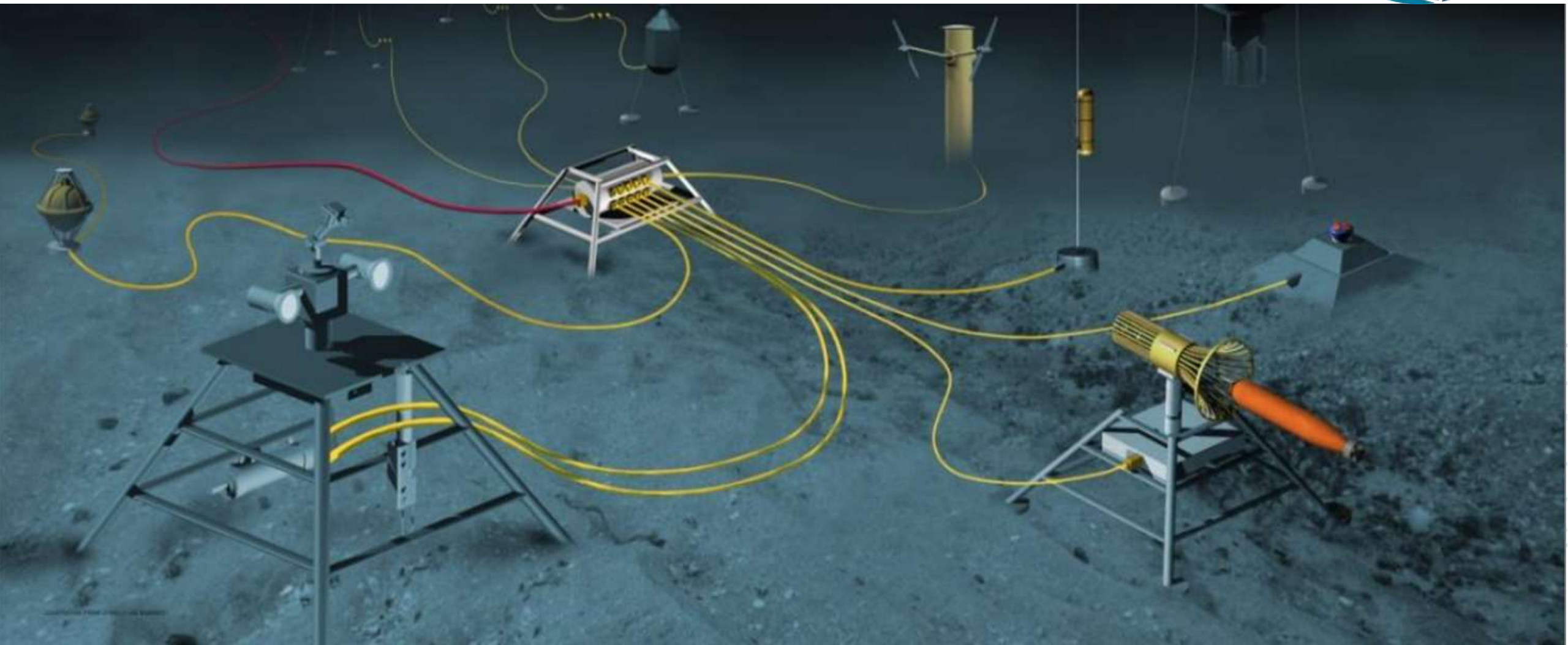


SmartBay Observatory

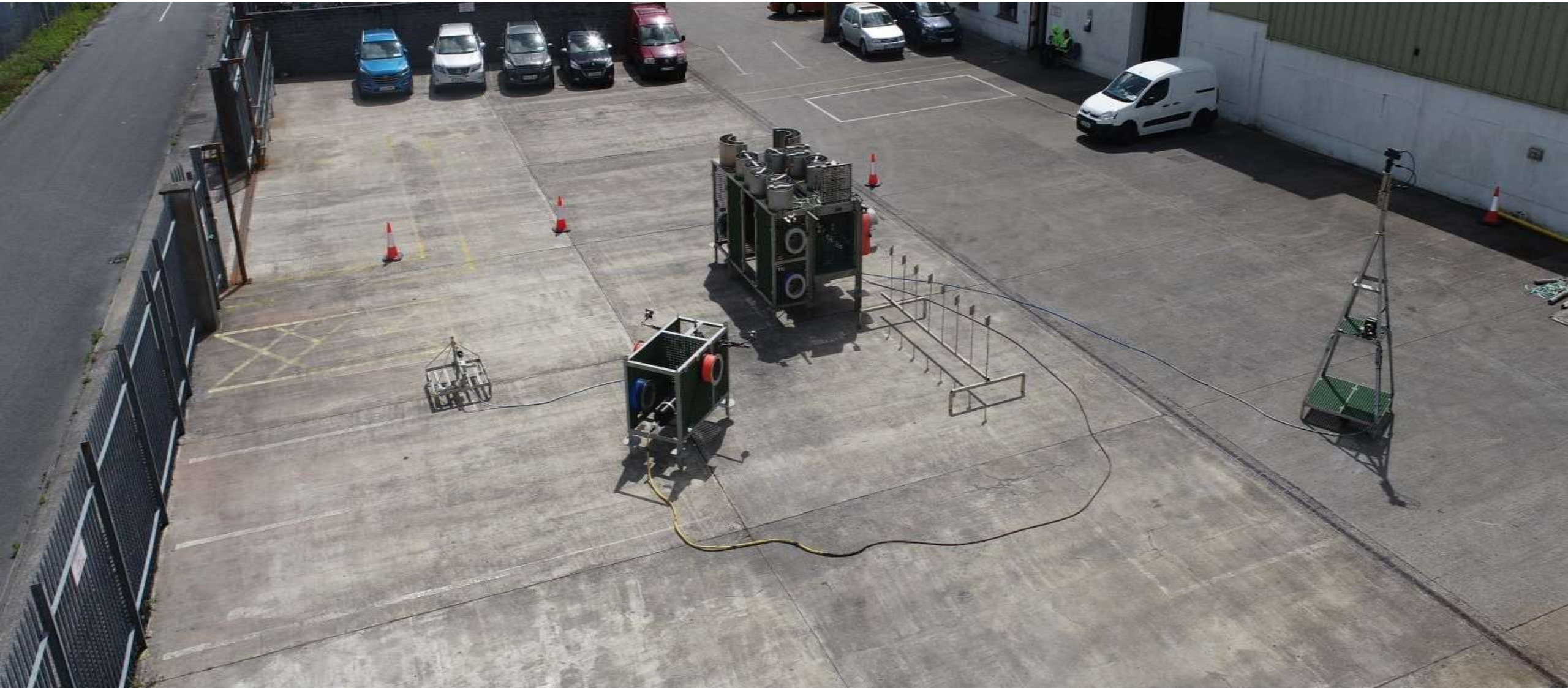
From vision to reality

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

SmartBay



The Observatory

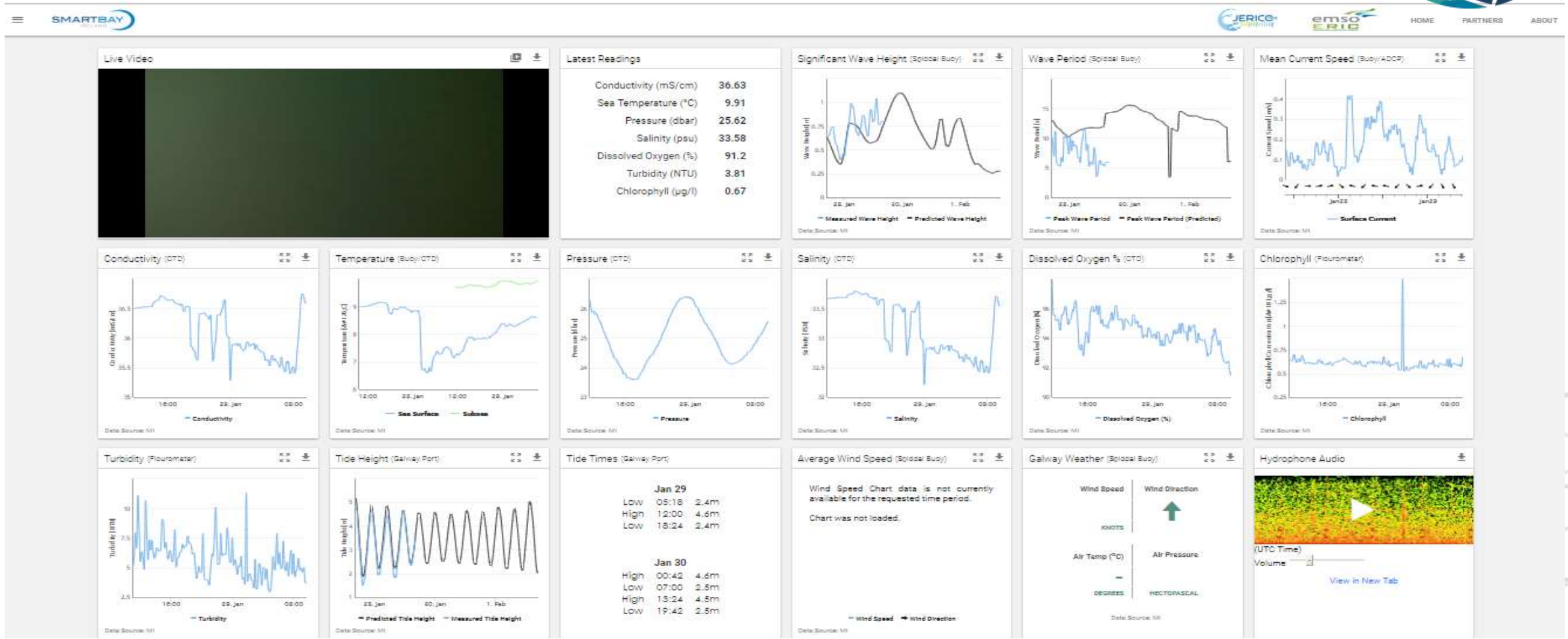


The Observatory





The Data


SMARTBAY
HOME
PARTNERS
ABOUT
Live Video
Latest Readings
Conductivity (mS/cm) 36.63
Sea Temperature (°C) 9.91
Pressure (dbar) 25.62
Salinity (psu) 33.58
Dissolved Oxygen (%) 91.2
Turbidity (NTU) 3.81
Chlorophyll (µg/l) 0.67
Significant Wave Height (Spiddal Buoy)
Wave Period (Spiddal Buoy)
Mean Current Speed (Buoy/ADCP)
Conductivity (CTD)
Temperature (Buoy/CTD)
Pressure (CTD)
Salinity (CTD)
Dissolved Oxygen % (CTD)
Chlorophyll (Flourometer)
Turbidity (Flourometer)
Tide Height (Galway Port)
Tide Times (Galway Port)
Jan 29
Low 05:18 2.4m
High 12:00 4.6m
Low 18:24 2.4m
Jan 30
High 00:42 4.6m
Low 07:00 2.5m
High 13:24 4.5m
Low 19:42 2.5m
Average Wind Speed (Spiddal Buoy)
Wind Speed Chart data is not currently available for the requested time period.
Chart was not loaded.
Galway Weather (Spiddal Buoy)
Wind Speed
Wind Direction
KNOTS
Air Temp (°C)
Air Pressure
DEGREES
HECTOPASCAL
Hydrophone Audio
(UTC Time)
Volume
View in New Tab

The Camera

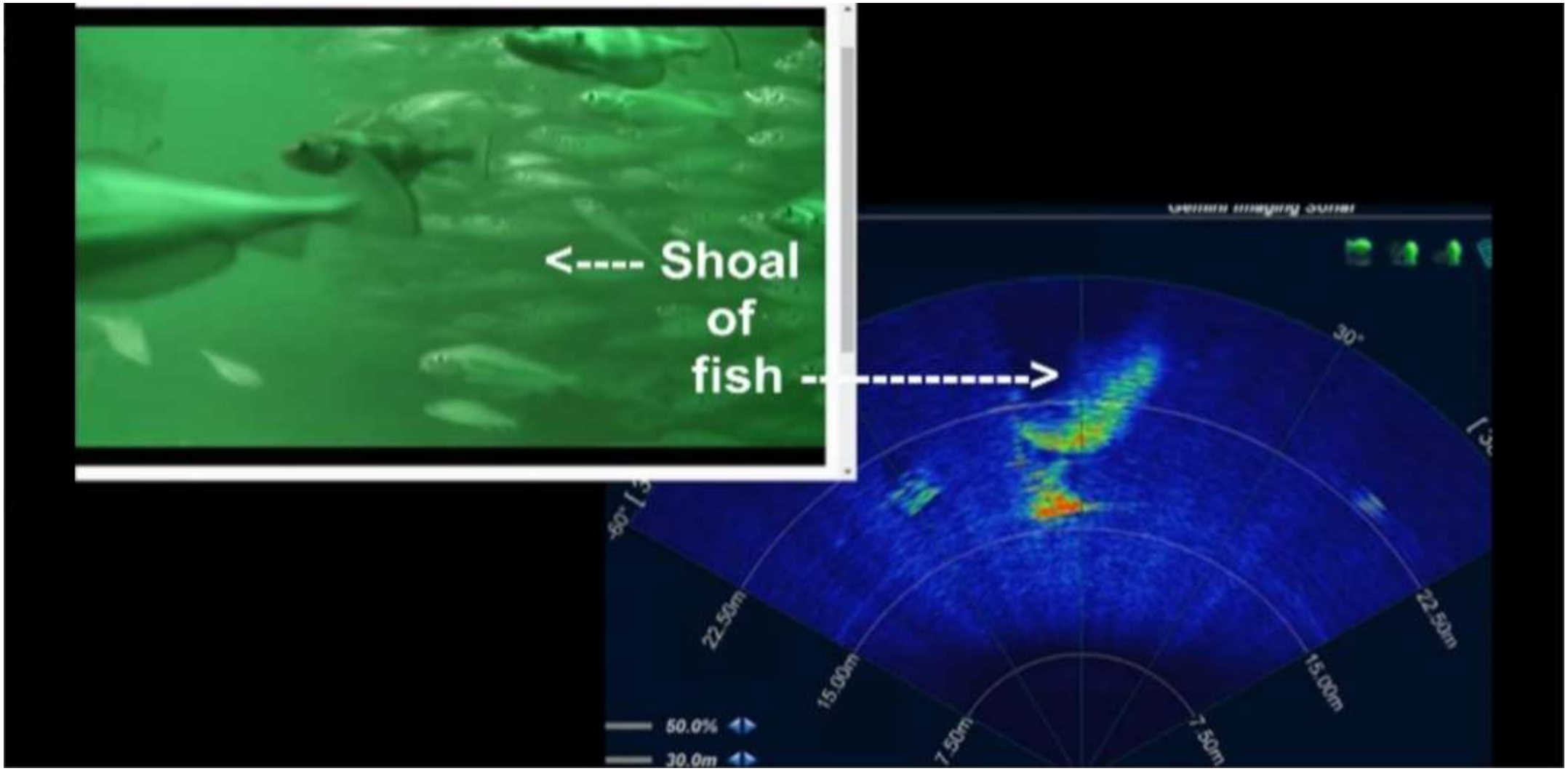


The Camera

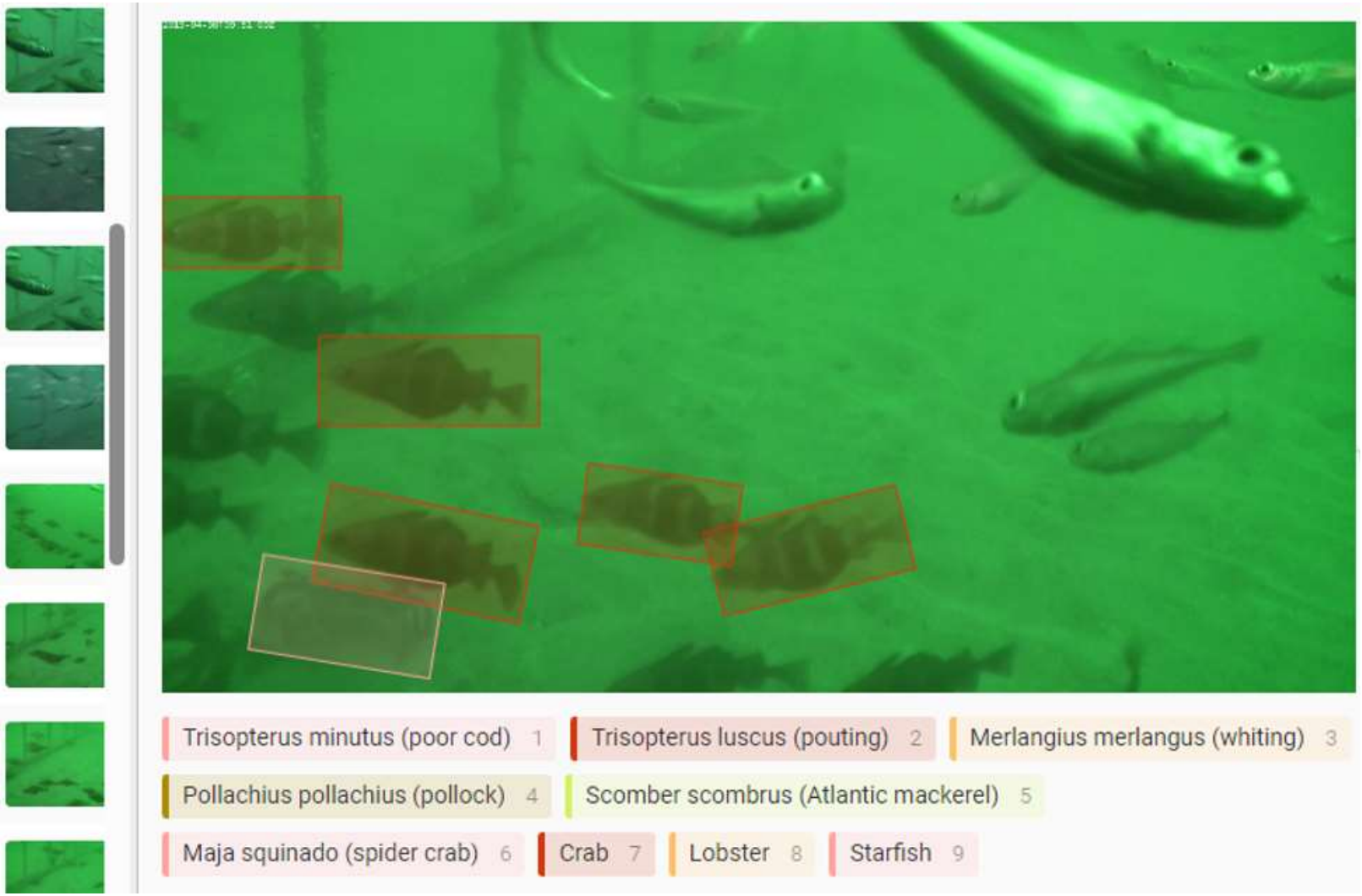
SmartBay



The Intelligence



The Intelligence



- Currently training Several Machine Learning models

The **REAL** Intelligence

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

SmartBay



EU Research Projects

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

Objective: Develop & demonstrate real-time monitoring & alerting system for deep-sea environments
Duration: Jan 2023 – Dec 2027 (60 months)
Consortium: 26 partners from 11 countries
Role: WP5 leader (Final Demonstration)
MI Budget: €2,324,375

Objective: Develop tools and services for integrated operation of EU marine observation platforms
Duration: Mar 2024 – Feb 2028 (48 months)
Consortium: 26 partners from 12 countries
Role: WP4, WP5 & WP6 leader (Communications & Dissemination)
MI Budget: €163,187

Objective: Implement operational marine biological & ecosystem monitoring
Duration: Jan 2023 – Dec 2026 (48 months)
Consortium: 23 partners from 13 countries
Role: Affiliate partner to EMSO ERIC – WP5 Demonstrator case study (SmartBay Observatory)
MI Budget: €493,750

EU Research Projects

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

Objective: Develop a 4D ecological monitoring system using robotic platforms
Duration: Mar 2024 – Feb 2028 (48 months)
Consortium: 18 partners from 10 countries
Role: Involved across all WPs
MI Budget: €335,625

Objective: Develop a biogeochemical, multi-platform observing system for the ocean carbon system
Duration: Jan 2023 – Jun 2027 (54 months)
Consortium: 28 partners from 9 countries
Role: Affiliate partner to EMSO ERIC – WP5 Demonstrator case study (SmartBay Observatory)
MI Budget: € 54,375

The Science

Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

- Studying the burrowing patterns and lifecycle of prawns (Italy)
- Monitoring micro-plastics in the marine environment (Portugal)
- Environmental characterisation of novel ADCP sensor (UK)
- Assessing fish population diversity with underwater cameras (Ireland)
- Tracking tagged salmon and trout migration pathways (Ireland)
- Testing new sensors to measure wave heights (Spain)
- Monitoring underwater noise (UK)
- Antifouling strategies for marine deployed structures (Ireland)
- Understanding underwater video content (Ireland)
- Installation of a live-streaming sonar (Ireland)
- Environmental DNA (eDNA) for monitoring marine biodiversity (Ireland)
- Automatic Data and Video Acquisition for underwater monitoring (Italy)
- Field testing and validation of a new multi-parameter sensor (UK)
- Fibre-optic Intelligent Submarine High-Fidelity Environmental Sensing (UK)
- Validation of a micro-AUV high accuracy CTD sensor (France)
- Distributed acoustic sensing for geotechnical assessment of offshore renewable developments (Ireland)

Ocean Energy

- Annual Service Level Agreement (2009 to 2018) evolved to multi-annual SLA (2021-2023, 2024-2027)
- Support to national ocean energy programme and development of test sites (AMETS & SmartBay)



- Foreshore lease application process for upgrading SmartBay from April 2016 – October 2024
- SmartBay closed in Dec 2024 following two judicial reviews (2018 & 2024)
- Business Case submitted in 2026 for SEAI / DECC for establishment of a new national test site

Ocean Energy

- Apr 2006 Original 10yr foreshore lease
- Apr 2016 Interim 1yr lease granted
- Apr 2016 New 35yr lease application
- Dec 2017 35yr lease awarded (1.5yrs)
- Mar 2018 Judicial review #1 lodged
- Mar 2020 Judicial review #1 concluded (2yrs)
- Aug 2020 Application re-submitted
- May 2024 35yr lease re-awarded (~4yrs)
- Aug 2024 Judicial review #2 lodged*
- Oct 2024 Judicial review #2 concluded
- Dec 2024 SmartBay test site closed



Ocean Energy Projects

FORESEA

Floating **O**ffshore wind load **RE**duction device certification at **SEA**

- Revolutionary design and delivery of permanent mooring systems
- Focused on the Floating Offshore Wind (FOW) market
- Accelerate commercialisation of the load reduction device through certification

LEOPARDS

LEveraging **O**cean **P**ower **A**ssessments for **R**esearch, **D**evelopment, & **S**ustainability

- Examine effects of buoy mooring configurations on accuracy of wave data recorded
- Update wave model with new wave data collected
- Produce 40yr wave climate assessment of Irish waters for ORE development

IMAP

Irish **M**arine **A**coustics **P**latform

- Establish underwater noise baseline for Irish waters
- Develop data analytics, modelling and management infrastructure
- Produce scientific evidence for sustainable development of offshore energy



Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

Thank you!



Meet the Speaker



Finn Delaney

XOCEAN

Ocean data, delivered.

Irish Offshore Wind

A surveyor's perspective

Finn Delaney · Energy West Ireland



Îles d'Yeu and Noirmoutier offshore wind farm, France, 2026

Summer 2026: the climate emergency is here

So what can we do?



100,000

hectares burned in France this year

Worst in two decades of satellite records. One fire near Bordeaux burned 42,000 ha.

1884

UK's hottest summer since records began

Driest July on record in England and Wales. 38°C in June.

50,000+

heat deaths in European cities this summer

The deadliest summer on record. About two-thirds are blamed on climate change.

Photo: via BBC News. Sources: EFFIS via Connexion France (Aug 2026); Met Office / Environment Agency (Jul–Oct 2026); Imperial College London & LSHTM, Nature Health (Oct 2026)

The size of the prize

€38bn+

added to the Irish economy by reaching our target of **37 GW of offshore wind by 2050**

"A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity"
Noel Cunniffe, CEO, Wind Energy Ireland

Security
Our own clean power, not imported fuel

Affordability
Warmer homes, stable prices, thousands of jobs

Sustainability
Cleaner air and a real answer to the climate crisis

Source: Wind Energy Ireland / Green Tech Skillnet, Building our Potential (BVG Associates, Jan 2024); DCEE Future Framework (2024)



Survey boat, Galway Harbour

A view from the water

10 years

surveying the seabed for offshore wind

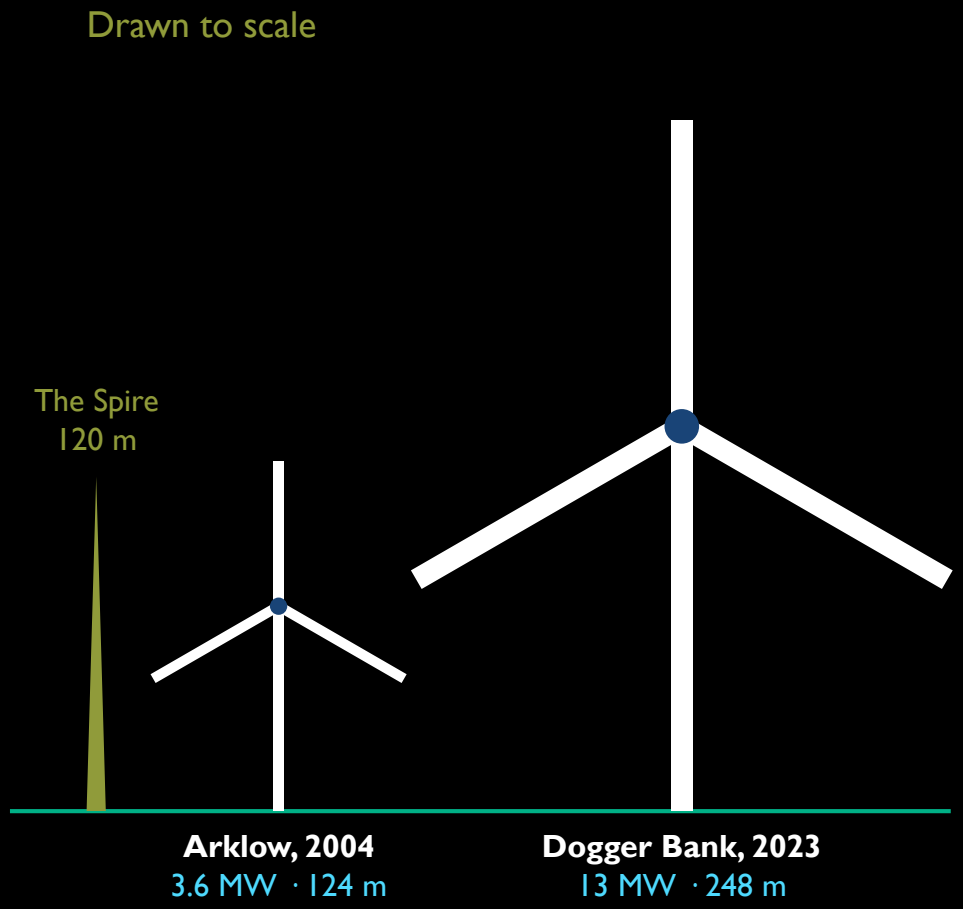
UK	Principal surveyor on E.ON's wind farms, including Robin Rigg and Scroby Sands
IRELAND	Ports on every coast, Killybegs to Rosslare, plus cable routes to Wales and for Westwave
GALWAY	Former MD of Geomara, now BDM at XOCEAN, based at PorterShed

Not an academic. A practitioner's view.

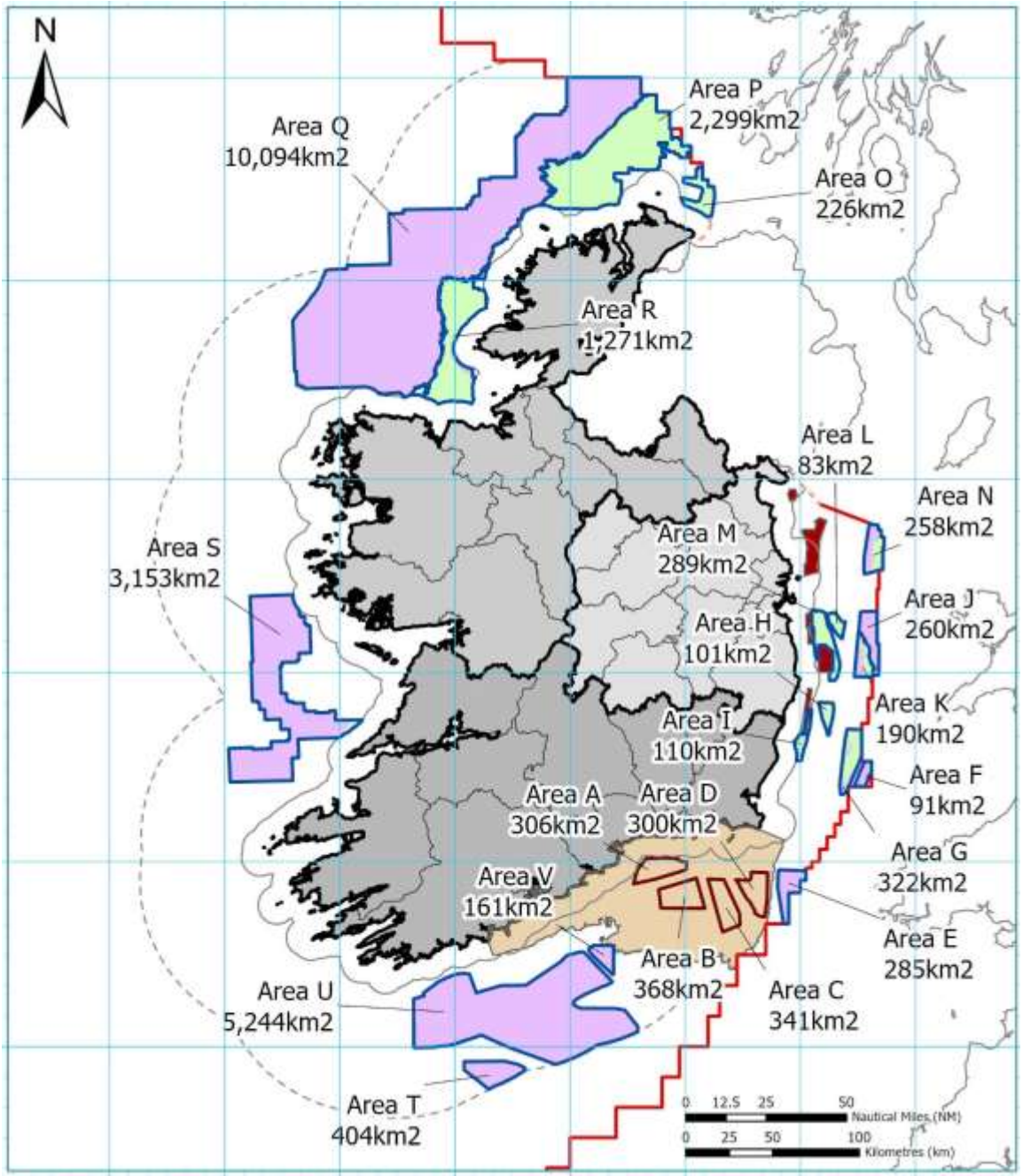
We did it, then we stalled

	2004	2025
Ireland	25 MW	0 MW
UK	124 MW	16,500 MW

The UK kept going. We didn't.



Sources: Hansard, HL Deb 26 Jan 2005; The Crown Estate Offshore Wind Report 2025; GE (Arklow 3.6s: 73.5 m hub, 104 m rotor; Haliade-X 13 MW: 248 m); Irish Times (Aug 2026)



Ireland's new start

Phase 1 · East coast

3.8 GW

Oriel, North Irish Sea Array, Dublin Array, Codling and SSE's Arklow Bank 2 (up to €2.5bn). All still in planning.

Phase 2 · South coast

900 MW

Tonn Nua off Waterford, won by ESB and Ørsted. First power in the mid-2030s.

Next · Draft National DMAP

Whole coast

Including 3,153 km² off the west coast. Mostly deeper than 80 m: floating wind.

Map: DCEE, draft National DMAP for ORE (2026), reference only. Projects: EirGrid; An Coimisiún Pleanála; SSE; ESB/Ørsted

What it did for the UK's coastal towns

7 UK regions poorer than anywhere else in North West Europe, including Lincolnshire and Tees Valley

Grimsby

Once home to one of the world's largest fishing fleets. Now the world's leading offshore wind maintenance port.

RWE's Grimsby Hub, opened 2025: **90+ jobs, ~140 by 2027**



Port of Grimsby, Royal Dock

Where I've worked: Newhaven · Great Yarmouth · Lowestoft · Grimsby · Hull · Scarborough · Hartlepool · Eyemouth · Arbroath · Aberdeen · Workington · Whitehaven · Fleetwood · Barrow-in-Furness

Sources: High Pay Centre (Dec 2019, Eurostat 2017 data); ABP; RWE (Jul 2025)



Rampion, from Brighton Pier

Rampion: built, and still popular

350,000

homes powered by Rampion's 116 turbines (400 MW)

80% → 85%

local support before (2010) and after it was built (2019). Support held. Only 4% opposed.

1.2 GW

Rampion 2, consented April 2025. Up to 90 more turbines.

Sources: RWE (Rampion); Yonder (Populus) surveys commissioned by RWE (2010, 2019); UK Government DCO decision (4 Apr 2025)

“Are they really worth it?”

What my friends ask me

- Too much subsidy
- Only works when the wind blows
- Kills the birds
- Ruins the view
- Developers

“Too much subsidy”

Offshore wind support works both ways

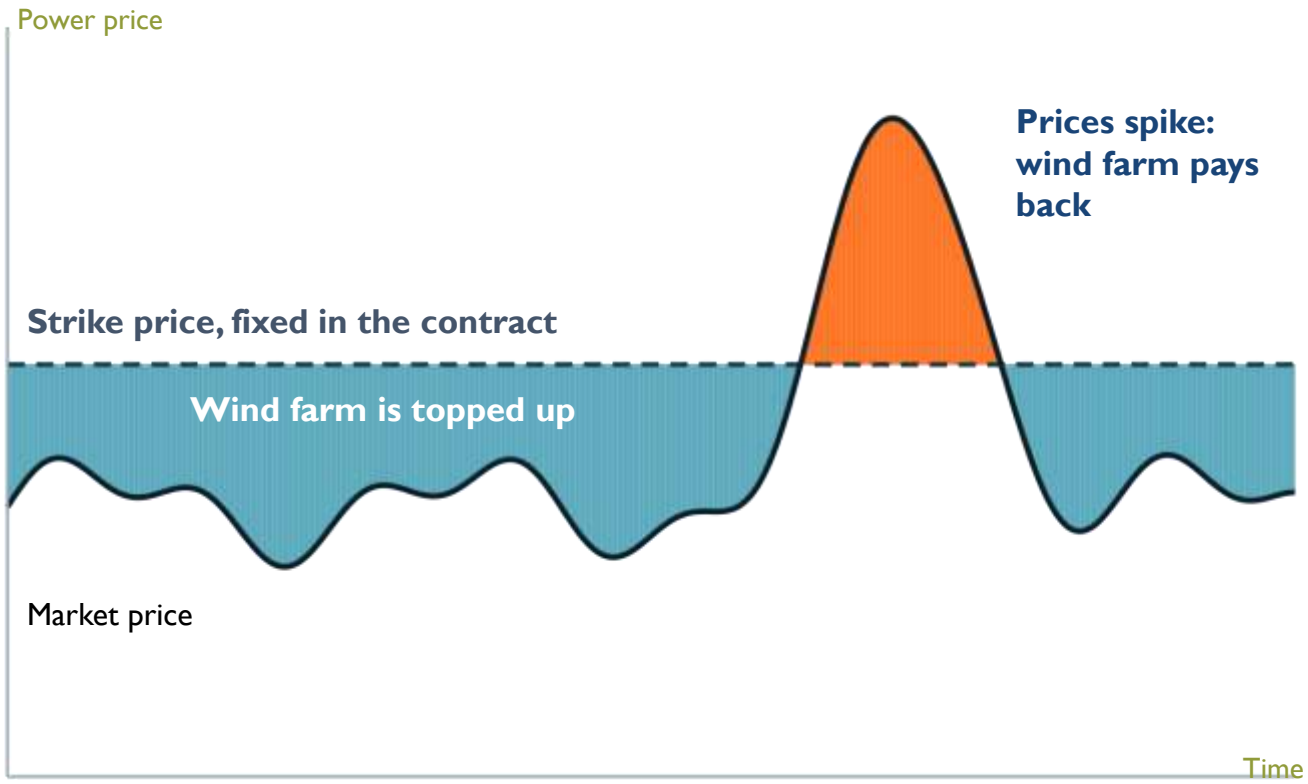


Illustration. When prices spiked in 2021–22, UK wind farms paid about £205m back in six months.

Meanwhile, fossil fuels

€4.7bn

Ireland's fossil fuel subsidies in 2024. We give fossil fuels more than renewables.

$7.4tn

Global fossil fuel subsidies in 2024, counting the pollution nobody pays for

$1bn

Paid by the US government for TotalEnergies to drop offshore wind, March 2026

Sources: CSO Fossil Fuel Subsidies 2024; EPA State of the Environment 2024; IMF WP/25/270; US Dept of the Interior (Mar 2026); UK Government (2022)

“Only works when the wind blows”

When it's calm

Share of Ireland's electricity generated from wind on a single day, February 2025



Strongest in winter

Wind peaks when we need power most. February 2025: 49% of Ireland's electricity came from wind.

Offshore is steadier

Stronger, more consistent winds than on land, and floating turbines further out steadier still.

Batteries and links

Record 362 MW from batteries on a calm, high-demand evening (Nov 2025), plus power imported over interconnectors.

Spread it out

Calm spells rarely hit all of Europe at once. Linking grids up shortens the worst ones by around two-thirds.

It's a system, not a single wind farm.

Sources: CSO Electricity Supply by Source 2025 (incl. Valentia wind speeds); DUKES 2025; GWEC 2026; EirGrid (Dec 2025); Kittel & Schill (arXiv 2024)

…and when it blows too hard

All the wind energy available on the island in 2025



Switched off: the grid couldn't use it

Grid
EirGrid's record investment programme

Interconnectors
Links to Britain; Celtic Interconnector to France due 2028

Storage
Batteries now, long-duration storage next

New demand
Heat pumps, EVs, green hydrogen, industry

That's a reason to fix the system, not a reason not to build.

Source: EirGrid/SONI Annual Renewable Energy Constraint and Curtailment Report 2025 (all-island)

“Kills the birds”



Oystercatcher: Red-listed in Ireland

At the turbines

0

confirmed collisions in 19 months of monitoring at Vattenfall's Aberdeen wind farm

An industry-funded study, advised by the RSPB. Over 96% of seabirds near the blades changed course.

In a warming ocean

4 million

guillemots lost after a single marine heatwave in Alaska, 2014–16

Kittiwakes are down 70% since the 1980s as warmer seas cut their food.

The real risk is displacement. Some species, like red-throated divers, abandon feeding grounds, and the shallow east coast banks are prime feeding areas. Careful siting matters more than the technology.

Photo: via SINTEF. Sources: Vattenfall / Offshore Engineer (Mar 2026); USFWS; Renner et al., Science (2024); Scottish Seabird Centre; Garthe et al. (2023); BirdWatch Ireland

“It ruins the view”

“

…on the grounds of desecration of that area of natural beauty.

Tommy Tiernan
Objection to Sceirde Rocks, 2025

What I see

Our own secure power. Clean energy. Local jobs.



Aberdeen beach, with the Aberdeen Bay wind farm offshore

Beauty depends on where you're standing.

Photo: Aberdeen City Council. Source: Irish Times (14 Apr 2025), Tiernan's submission to An Bord Pleanála

We've done big before



Ardnacrusha under construction, April 1928

20% of the new state's budget, in 1925

5,000 workers at its peak

80% of Ireland's electricity by 1935

Critics called it a white elephant. It powered a nation.

Sources: Engineers Ireland; Institution of Civil Engineers; ESB Archives

Building at sea is hard



Surveying Robin Rigg's offshore substations



Van Oord's Aeolus

Ships that stand on legs

Jack-up vessels lower legs to the seabed and lift clear of the waves

Lifts wait for the weather

Wind and swell decide when work can happen

It starts with the seabed

Before anything is built, we survey every metre

Offshore, everything is harder.

Photos: Finn Delaney (Robin Rigg); Van Oord

Sceirde Rocks: here be dragons

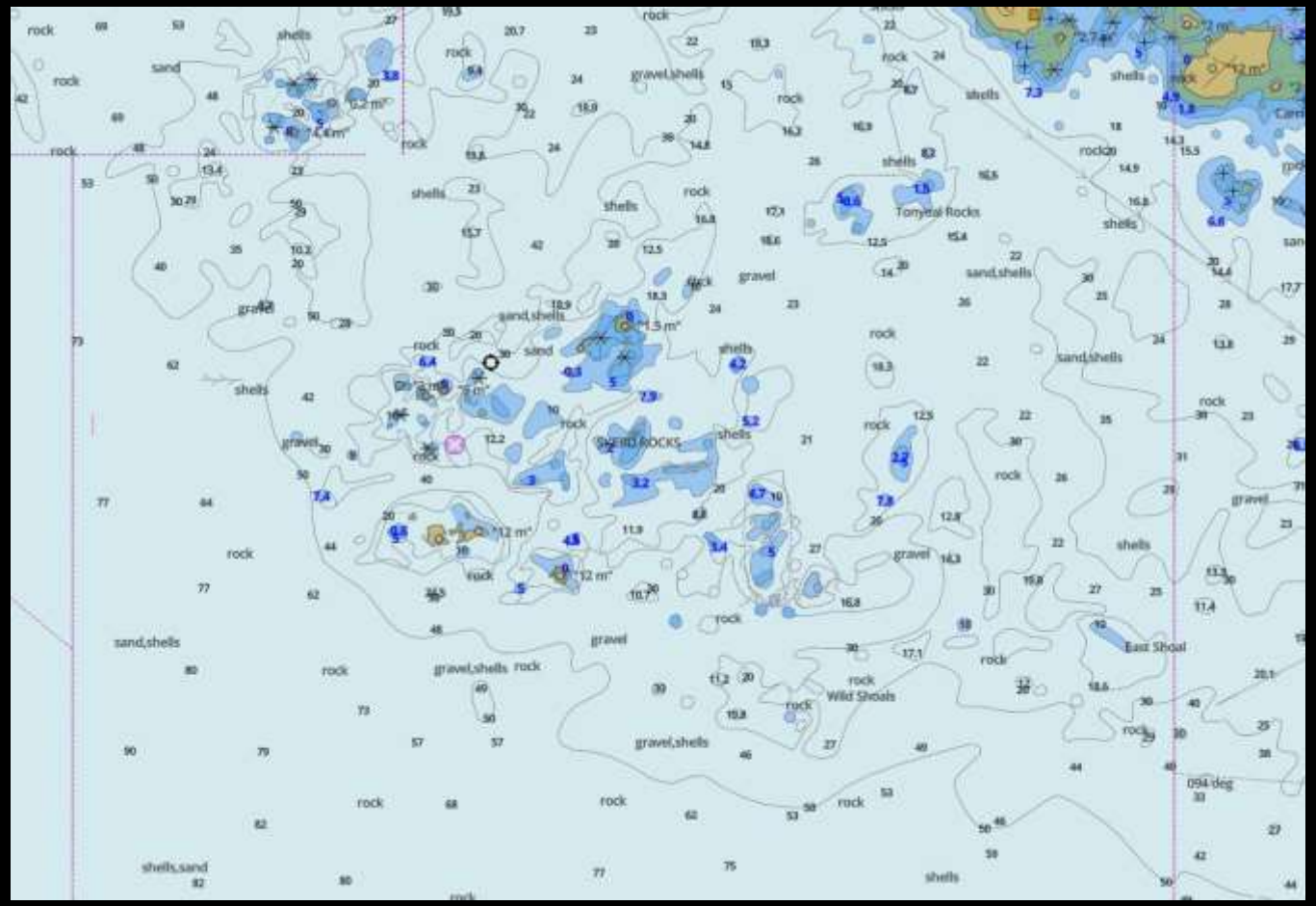


Chart extract, not for navigation: rocks at the surface, in 30–80 m of open Atlantic

450 MW

30 turbines, €1.4bn, off Carna

23 m

storm waves, with strong seabed currents

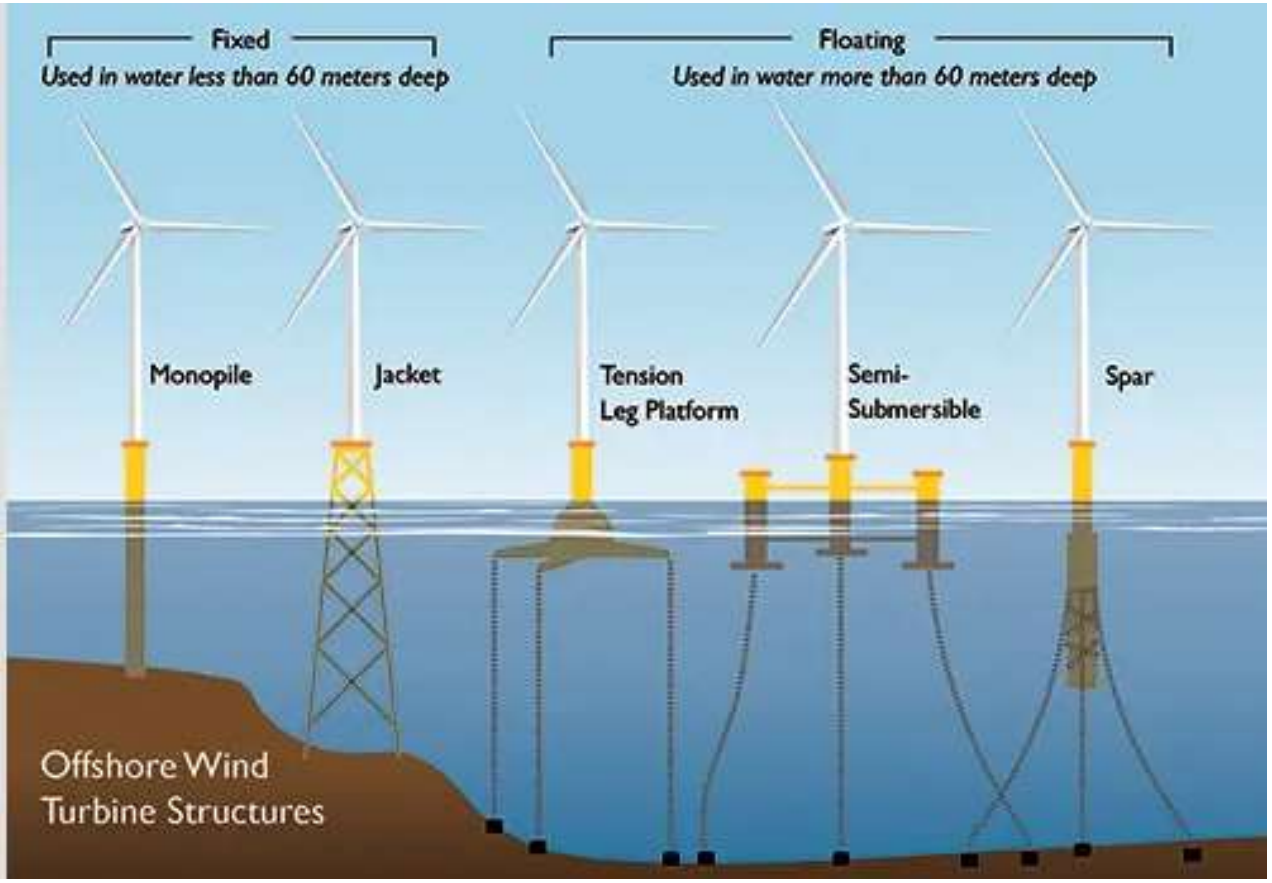
€50m

spent before it was halted, plus a €35.4m bond forfeited

"We could barely get a survey boat out there. How were they going to build?"

Sources: Irish Times (Apr 2025, May 2026); TheJournal.ie (Jan 2026); offshoreWIND.biz (Jan 2026)

Floating wind: going where the wind is



Fixed foundations in shallow water; floating platforms moored in deep water

80%+

of the world's offshore wind resource is in water too deep for fixed foundations

Already working

Hywind Tampen, Norway	**~95 MW**
Kincardine, off Aberdeen	**~48 MW**
Hywind Scotland	**30 MW**
WindFloat Atlantic, Portugal	**25 MW**

Only ~382 MW operating worldwide. Early days.

Diagram: NREL (Josh Bauer). Sources: GWEC Global Offshore Wind Report 2026; The State of Floating Wind (Oct 2026), citing RenewableUK

To reach 37 GW, Ireland has to float

Target: 37 GW by 2050



Planned: east and south

More fixed-bottom, at most

Has to float

30 GW

of floating wind: the Programme for Government commits to a long-term plan for at least this much

3,153 km²

Area S off Galway and Clare in the draft National DMAP, mostly deeper than 80 m

Sources: DCEE Future Framework (2024) and Offshore Wind Technical Resource Assessment (2025); Programme for Government 2025; DCEE draft National DMAP (2026)

What it could mean for the west



Foynes Port, Shannon Estuary

€12bn

supply chain investment on the Shannon Estuary by 2050
Shannon Foynes Port's own estimate

30,000

jobs, by the same estimate
Assembly, mooring, maintenance, vessels, services

4 ports

Shannon Foynes, Galway, Rossaveal, Killybegs
Foynes is a founding member of the Global Floating Offshore Wind Ports Alliance (2026)

The Grimsby story, but for the west. The skills from fishing and the sea carry straight over.

Photo: via RTÉ News. Sources: Shannon Foynes Port Company floating wind study and Vision 2041; Limerick Leader (Mar 2026)

The honest challenges



Storm boulders 32–42 m back from 20 m cliffs, Inishmaan. Photo: Peter Cox

620 tonnes

The biggest boulder moved by storm waves on the Aran Islands in winter 2013–14. Smaller ones were thrown 26 m above high water.

Atlantic storms	harsher than UK waters
Grid on the west coast	today's network wasn't built for it
Ports not ready yet	quays, laydown and wet storage
A young technology	costs still high, projects small

Hard, not impossible. That's why we start now.

Sources: Cox et al., Earth-Science Reviews (2018), via Phys.org; Dáil reply, 8 May 2024; The State of Floating Wind (Oct 2026)

Europe sees it as energy security

"The decisions we have taken here in Hamburg today will make our energy supply more secure, cheaper and more integrated."

Friedrich Merz, German Chancellor, North Sea Summit, January 2026

Ireland signed the Hamburg Declaration too: nine countries pledging to make the North Seas the world's largest clean energy hub.

0 bids

Denmark, Dec 2024

3 GW auction, no price support

›

0 bids

Germany, Aug 2025

2.5 GW auction, same model

›

1.8 GW

Denmark, Aug 2026

Switched to CfDs: both sites awarded



■ Ireland ■ Other signatories

Hamburg Declaration, January 2026

At WindEnergy Hamburg, 43,000 people from 100+ countries, **everything is seen through the lens of security.** *Ireland has signed up. Now we have to act like it.*

Map: Natural Earth via world-atlas. Sources: Bundesregierung / dpa (Jan 2026); RTÉ (26 Jan 2026); Hamburg Declaration; WindEurope (2024–26); solarserver.de (Sep 2026)

The prize, step by step

NOW

Get Phase 1 through planning

Oriel, NISA, Dublin Array, Codling, Arklow Bank 2. Still no decision on any of them.

3.8 GW

NEXT

Deliver Tonn Nua

Off Waterford. Investment decision 2031, first power mid-2030s.

900 MW

THE BIG PRIZE

Floating wind in the west

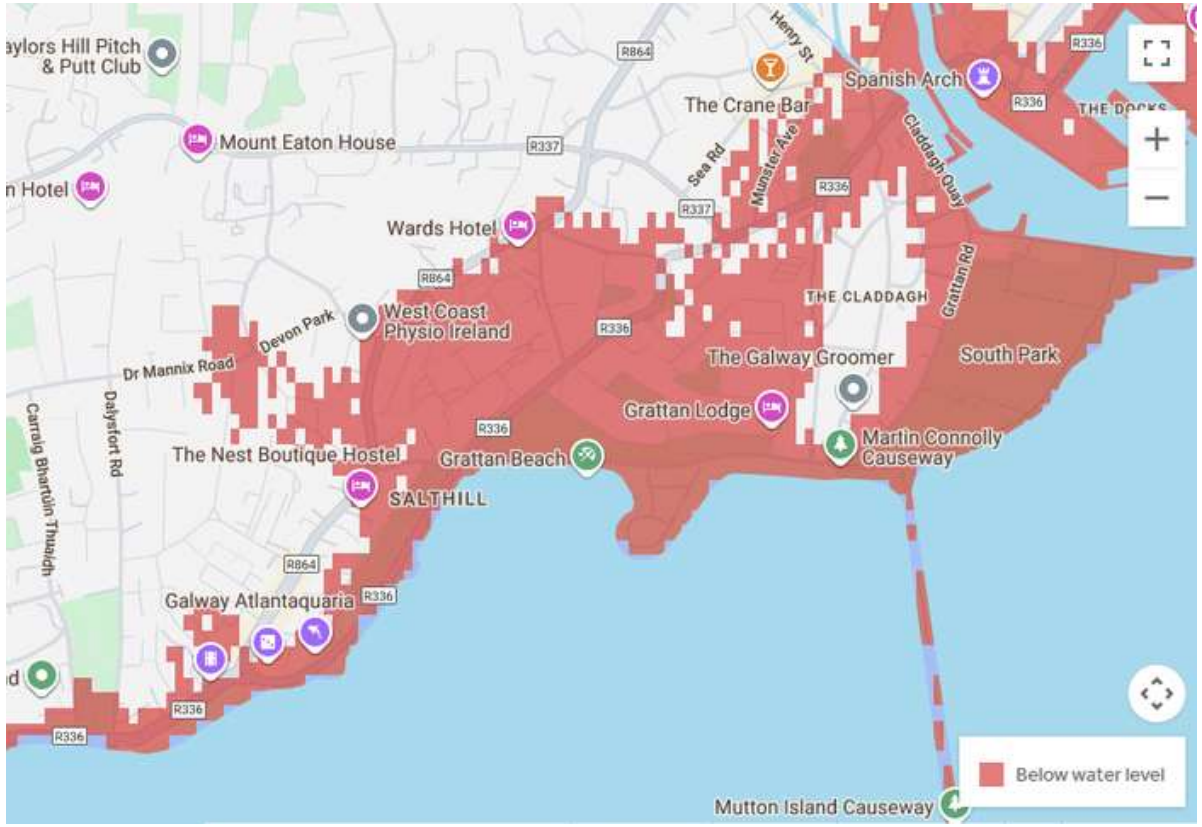
A plan for at least 30 GW, from waters like Area S off Galway and Clare.

30 GW+

€38bn+ for the economy. 37 GW by 2050. *It starts with five planning decisions.*

Sources: An Coimisiún Pleanála (Nov 2026); Irish Examiner (Nov 2026); EirGrid; Breakbulk (Nov 2025); Programme for Government 2025; Wind Energy Ireland

Why we do it



Galway, Storm Éowyn, January 2025

2.6 m

storm surge at the Port of Galway: the highest in modern records. On a spring tide, the city floods.

"…how narrowly tens of thousands of people avoided tidal inundation."

Dr Indiana Olbert, University of Galway

Map: areas below a 4.96 m water level (Salthill, the Claddagh, South Park)

The people I work with want to look their children in the eye and say: I did something.

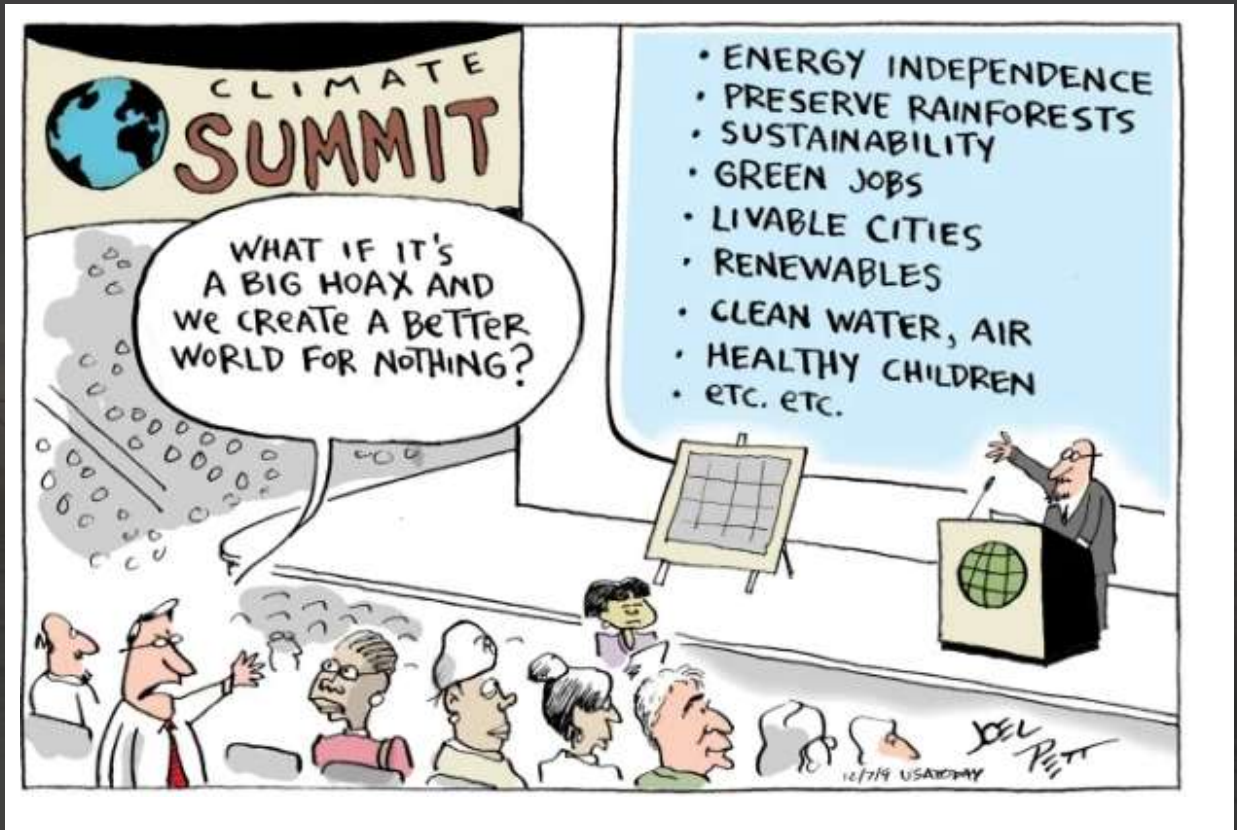
Source: University of Galway (Dr Indiana Olbert)

Are they worth it?

Yes.

Thank you

Finn Delaney · Leaving Robin Rigg after a day's survey



Cartoon © Joel Pett, USA Today, 7 December 2009



ENERGY WEST

Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR

Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

This event is recognised as an Associated Event of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026

ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Imeacht Gaolmhar | Associated Event

Supported by:

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION