



Iascach Iníre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Novice Angling Strategy

Let's Fish



Prepared under the Planning and Development
(Strategic Environmental Assessment)
Regulations 2004. (S.I. 435/2004) and (S.I.
200/2011

9th September 2020



Minogue & Associates
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS SEA SCOPING REPORT

1.2 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Under Directive 2001/42/EC - Assessment of Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, certain plans and programmes require an environmental assessment. This is known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. Article 1 of this Directive states that its objective is:

'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.'

A SEA Screening under Schedule 2a of the SEA Regulations was prepared and it was determined that the *draft Novice Angling Strategy - Let's Fish* will require SEA. Therefore, the purpose of this Scoping Report is to ensure that the relevant environmental issues are identified so that they can be addressed appropriately in the Environmental Report, which will inform the strategy.

The Environmental Report is required to include information that may be reasonably required, taking into account the following:

- Current knowledge and methods of assessment;
- Content and level of detail in the draft plan;
- Stage of the draft plan in the decision-making process and
- The extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the decision-making process in order to avoid duplication of environmental assessment.

1.3 SCALE, NATURE AND LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT

1.3.1. SUMMARY OF NAS

Angling in Ireland is a popular recreational activity and sport, however fewer people are fishing today than in recent decades and young people in particular are not drawn to angling. The Novice Angling Strategy 2020-2025 sets out an approach that enables more young people and non-anglers to experience fishing with a view to adopting it as a lifetime pursuit. The need to get more young people involved in angling is highlighted in IFI's Corporate Plan 2015- 2020. Whilst noting that Ireland has a large recreational angling community, the plan also recognises the challenges presented by the increasing age profile of anglers and the failure to attract significant numbers of young people. The plan also

notes the sport's positives including the fact it can be enjoyed at almost any age with little or lots of skill and that it complements other outdoor recreation activities.

Let's Fish will begin to connect people to angling and to the environment, making it easier to find out about and experience angling as a recreational activity and encouraging them to enjoy it for many years. The plan is underpinned by the following Vision and Aim.

Vision: All Fishing Together

Aim: To grow angling participation amongst non-anglers and young people as a recreational pursuit and a sport.

A number of objectives support the plan as follows:

Objective 1: Getting the message out there

Objective 2: Helping Clubs

Objective 3: Places to Fish

Objective 4: Let's talk Fish.

A series of outcomes and a work programme are also developed.

The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

Section 2: Relationship to relevant plans and programmes

Section 3: Key Scoping Issues

Section 4: Approach to the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Scoping of Environmental issues

Section 5: Consultation and Timing of SEA Scoping

Annex A: SEA Screening determination

2 RELATIONSHIP TO RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Under the SEA Directive, the relationship between the draft plan and other relevant plans and programmes must be taken into account. A review of the relevant plans and programmes will be prepared as part of the SEA ER. The preparation of the draft plan must be considered within the context of a hierarchy of policies, plans and strategies which include international, national, regional and local level policy documents. These documents set the policy framework within which the draft plan will operate.

Given the plan is national in scale, the potential for transboundary effects exists. Therefore, the plan and policy review will also consider relevant regional/county plans in Northern Ireland.

A list of the key relevant international, national and regional policies to be included in the review are provided below in Sections 2.2 to 2.3. For many projects that may arise from the NAS, they will be assessed under the relevant County Development Plans. Section 2.4 identifies key principles that will inform the SEA process arising from this review.

2.2 INTERNATIONAL

- UN Convention of Biological Diversity, 1992
- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (The Ramsar Convention) 1971 and subsequent amendments
- EU Environmental Action Programme to 2020
- EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
- EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, (2009/147/EC) 1979. Known as the Birds Directive
- EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, (92/43/EEC), 1992 known as the Habitats Directive
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011
- EU Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013
- The Stockholm Convention 2001
- EU Soil Thematic Strategy
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as amended
- Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)
- The Drinking Water Directive (DWD), (98/83/EC) 1998
- Groundwater Directive, (2006/118/EC) 2006
- EC Bathing Water Quality Directive, (2006/7/EC) 2006
- Paris (Climate Change) Agreement
- Kyoto Protocol
- The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive
- EU Directive on Waste, (2006/12/EC), 2006
- EU Directive on Waste (2008/98/EC), 2008
- EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC), 1991

- Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1992 (The Valletta Convention)
- Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, 1985 (Granada Convention)
- The European Landscape Convention 2000
- The Aarhus Convention
- Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC
- SEA Directive - Assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment, (2001/42/EC) 2001
- Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC) (97/11/EC), 1985 and Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2014/52/EC)

2.3 NATIONAL

- Project 2040 National Planning Framework (2018)
- 3rd National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021
- The Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2012
- Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans 2018
- National Mitigation Plan
- National Adaptation Framework 2018
- Sectoral Climate Adaptation Plans 2018
- Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines, EPA (2016)
- Our Sustainable Future A framework for sustainable development in Ireland (2012)
- National Landscape Strategy (2015-2025)
- National Heritage Plan (2002)- to be replaced by Heritage Ireland 2030 (Spring 2020)
- National River Basin District Management Plan (2018)
- Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme
- Water Services Act (2007)
- Water Services (Amendment) Act (2012)
- Irish Water Services Strategic Plan SEA and AA (2015)
- Irish Water Capital Investment Programme (2017-2021)
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages), 2009
- Geological Heritage Sites Designation (under the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000)
- Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2014-2020
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (and Technical Appendices) for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, OPW), 2009
- National Climate Change Strategy (2007-2012)
- Sectoral Planning Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation, (2018)
- National Adaptation Framework, (2018)

- Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020
- Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines
- Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS)
- National Monuments Act 1930 with subsequent amendments
- Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
- Draft Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines, (2000)
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- Planning Policy Statement, (2015).

2.4 NORTHERN IRELAND

- The Strategic Planning Policy Statement, 2015
- The Regional Development Strategy 2035
- Environmental Strategy for Northern Ireland (draft)
- Relevant Regional Landscape Character Assessments
- River Basin Management Plans for Northern Ireland , 2019.

2.5 REGIONAL

- Southern, Eastern, Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies 2020-2032;
- County/City Development Plans
- County/City Climate Change Action Plans
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments – August 2018.

2.6 KEY IMPLICATIONS AND PRINCIPLES ARISING FROM THE PLAN, POLICY AND PROGRAMME REVIEW.

Arising from the review, several key principles and implications for the SEA ER can be distilled. It is the intention that these principles will be considered through the SEA process and will serve to inform the assessment. **Table 1** below presents these key principles.

TABLE 1 Key principles and implications for the SEA of the draft plan from the plan, policy and programme review.

SEA Topic	Principles/Implications	Links to EPA State of the Environment 2016 Key Action Areas
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna		
	• Conserve and enhance biodiversity at all levels	Nature and Wild Places
	• Avoid and minimise effects on nationally and	Restore and Protect Water

SEA Topic	Principles/Implications	Links to EPA State of the Environment 2016 Key Action Areas
	<p>internationally rare and threatened species and habitats through sensitive design and consultation, recognising ecological connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid and minimise habitat fragmentation and seek opportunities to improve habitat connectivity Ensure careful consideration of non-native invasive and alien species issues particularly as they relate to waterbodies 	<p>Quality</p> <p>Implementation of Legislation</p> <p>Climate change</p>
Population and Human Health		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high quality environment to live, work and play in Avoid pollution and environmental health impacts through mitigation and design 	<p>Environment, Health and Well-being</p> <p>Sustainable Economic Activities</p> <p>Restore and Protect Water Quality</p> <p>Implementation of Legislation</p> <p>Climate Change</p>
Water		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve water quality for surface and groundwater Adapt and improve resilience to the effects of climate change, particularly flood risks associated with extreme weather Utilised Nature Based Solutions including SUDS to facilitate ecological improvement/ enhancement where possible 	<p>Restore and Protect Water Quality</p> <p>Nature and Wild Places</p> <p>Implementation of Legislation</p> <p>Climate Change</p>
Soil and Geology		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve soil resources where possible and avoid waste of soil resources Maintain hydrological integrity of wetlands Ensure careful consideration of non-native invasive and alien species issues 	<p>Nature and Wild Places</p> <p>Implementation of Legislation</p>
Material Assets		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid and minimise waste generation Maximise re-use of material resources and use of recycled materials Promote sustainable transport patterns and modes where possible. 	<p>Implementation of Legislation</p> <p>Climate Change</p>
Air Quality and Climate and Noise		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt and improve resilience to the effects of climate change Encourage reduction in greenhouse gases through transport, energy, built development. 	<p>Implementation of Legislation</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <p>Environment, Health and</p>

SEA Topic	Principles/Implications	Links to EPA State of the Environment 2016 Key Action Areas
•		Well-being
Cultural Heritage		
•	Conserve, preserve and record architectural and archaeological heritage	Environment, Health and Well-being
•	Avoid and minimise effects on historic environment features through sensitive design and consultation	Sustainable Economic Activities Implementation of Legislation
Landscape		
•	Enhance the landscape character of the area through design	Environment, Health and Well-being
•	Integrate green and blue infrastructure considerations	Sustainable Economic Activities
•	Improve landscape connectivity to surrounding area where possible	Climate Change
Climate change and sustainability		
•	Adapt and improve resilience to the effects of climate change	Environment, Health and Well-being
•	Promote local/ sustainable sourcing of materials – Promote sustainable design and innovation to reduce material consumption	Sustainable Economic Activities Climate Change Implementation of Legislation
Inter-relationships		
•	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes	Environment, Health and Well-being
•	Promote and enhance blue and green infrastructure	Sustainable Economic Activities
•	Adapt and improve resilience to climate change and extreme weather events	Climate Change Implementation of Legislation Restore and Protect Water Quality Nature and Wild Places

3 KEY SCOPING ISSUES

3.1 KEY ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES

The purpose of this section is to provide a brief overview of the main environmental resources and issues identified thus far, for the draft plan. At national level the 2016 publication Ireland's Environment 2016 –an assessment (EPA 2016) identifies seven key actions to underpin the environment; these can be used to help inform and consider the proposed plan process as and have been linked in **Table 1** previously.

Section 4 provides further information on the other environmental assessment processes underway – Habitats Directive Assessment.

A brief summary of current understanding of SEA topics is provided below:

This section provides a short summary of key environmental resources relevant to the Strategy. Figure 1 presents the principal lakes and rivers at national scale. Figure 2 presents the key findings of the most recent water quality for rivers and lakes in Ireland from the Water Quality in Ireland report (EPA 2019) as an infographic. Figures 3 and 4 present information on the designated sites for natural heritage under the EU Habitats Directive (Special Areas of Conservation), EU Birds Directive (Special Protection Areas) and Natural Heritage Areas, designated and protected under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 due to their conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage in a national context.

Figure 1 Principal Rivers and Lakes national



Figure 2 Key Findings of Ireland's Water Quality 2013-2018 (EPA, 2019)

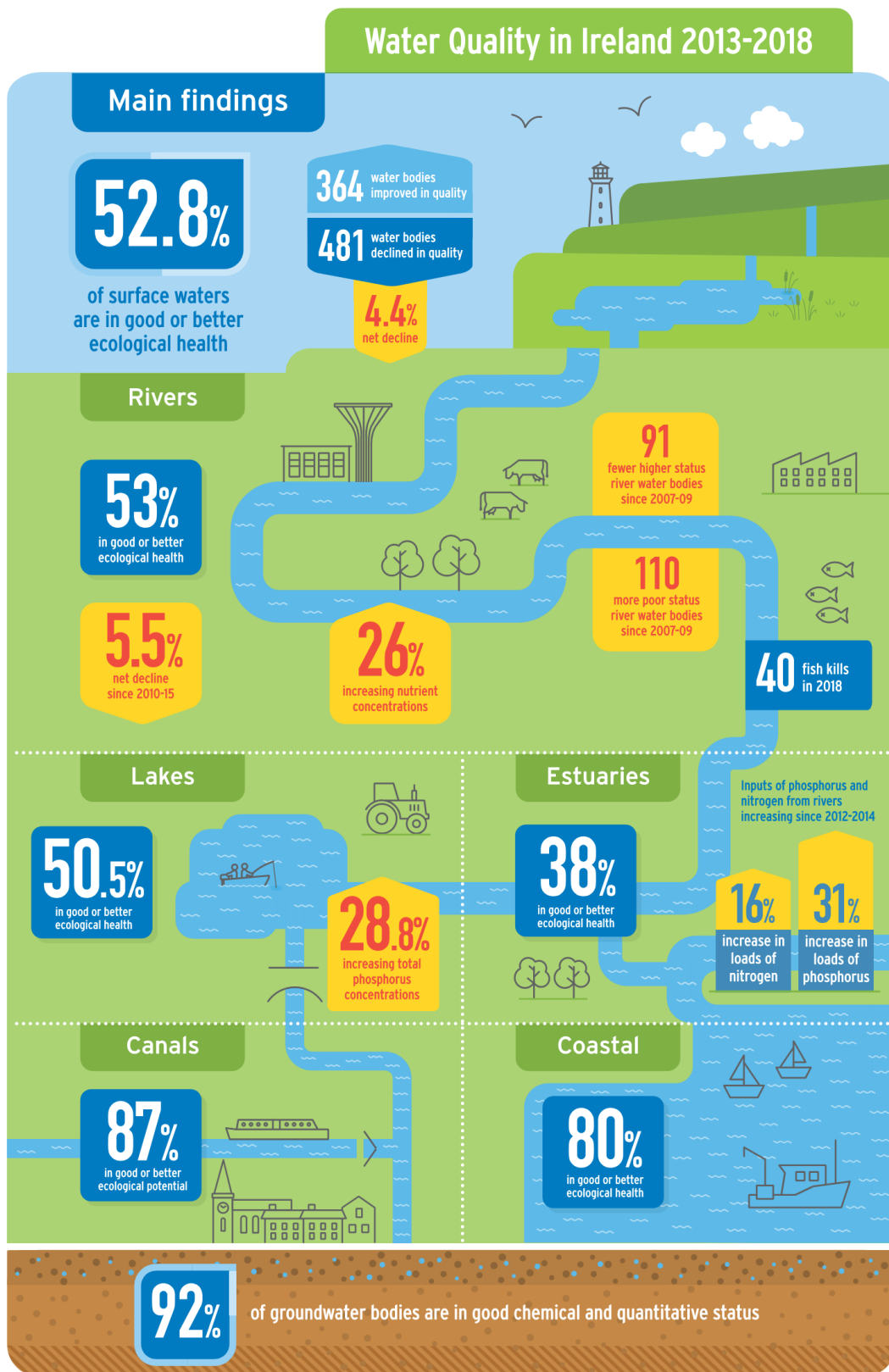


Figure 3 Special Areas of Conservation and cSACs and Special Protection Areas

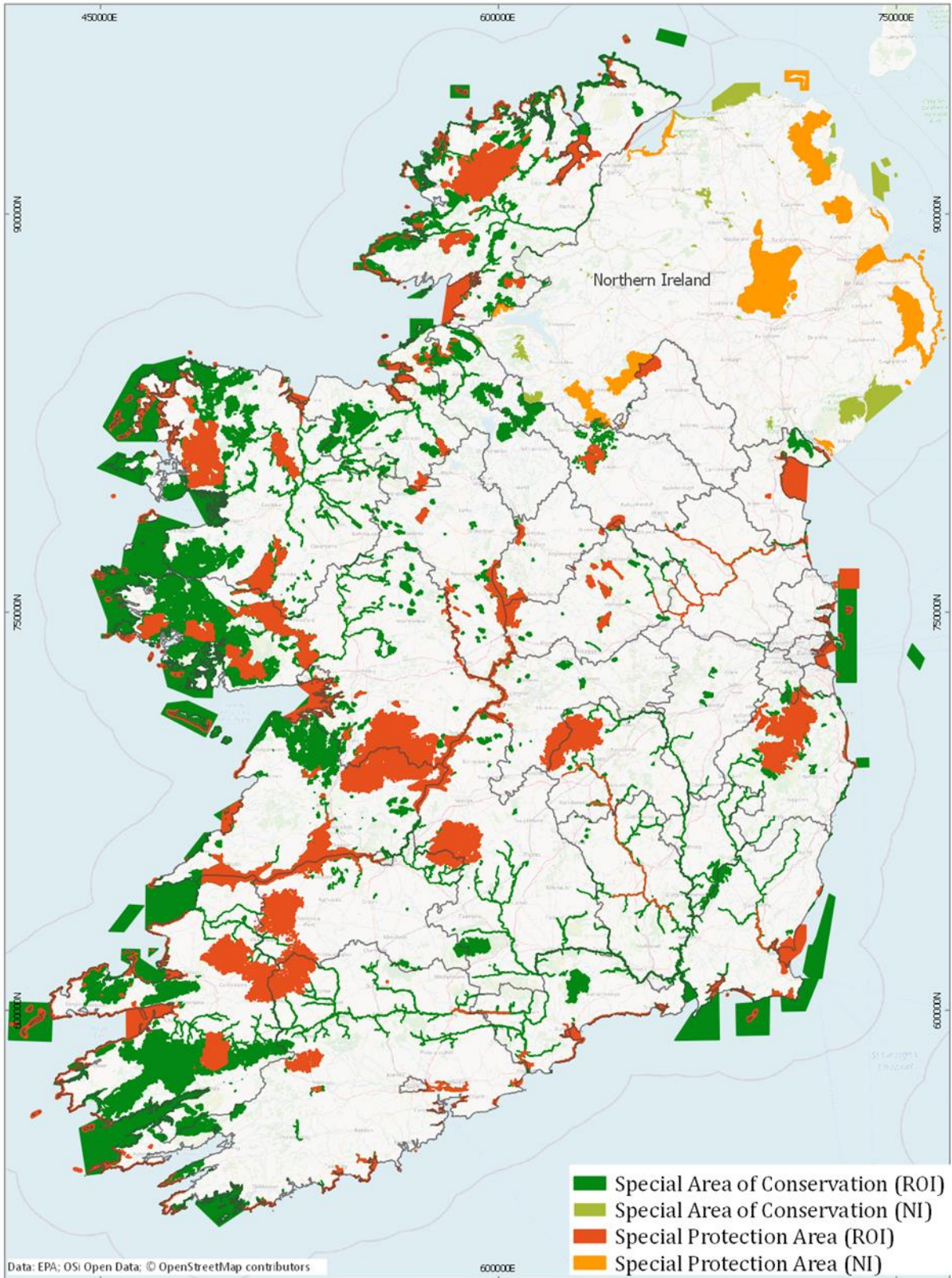
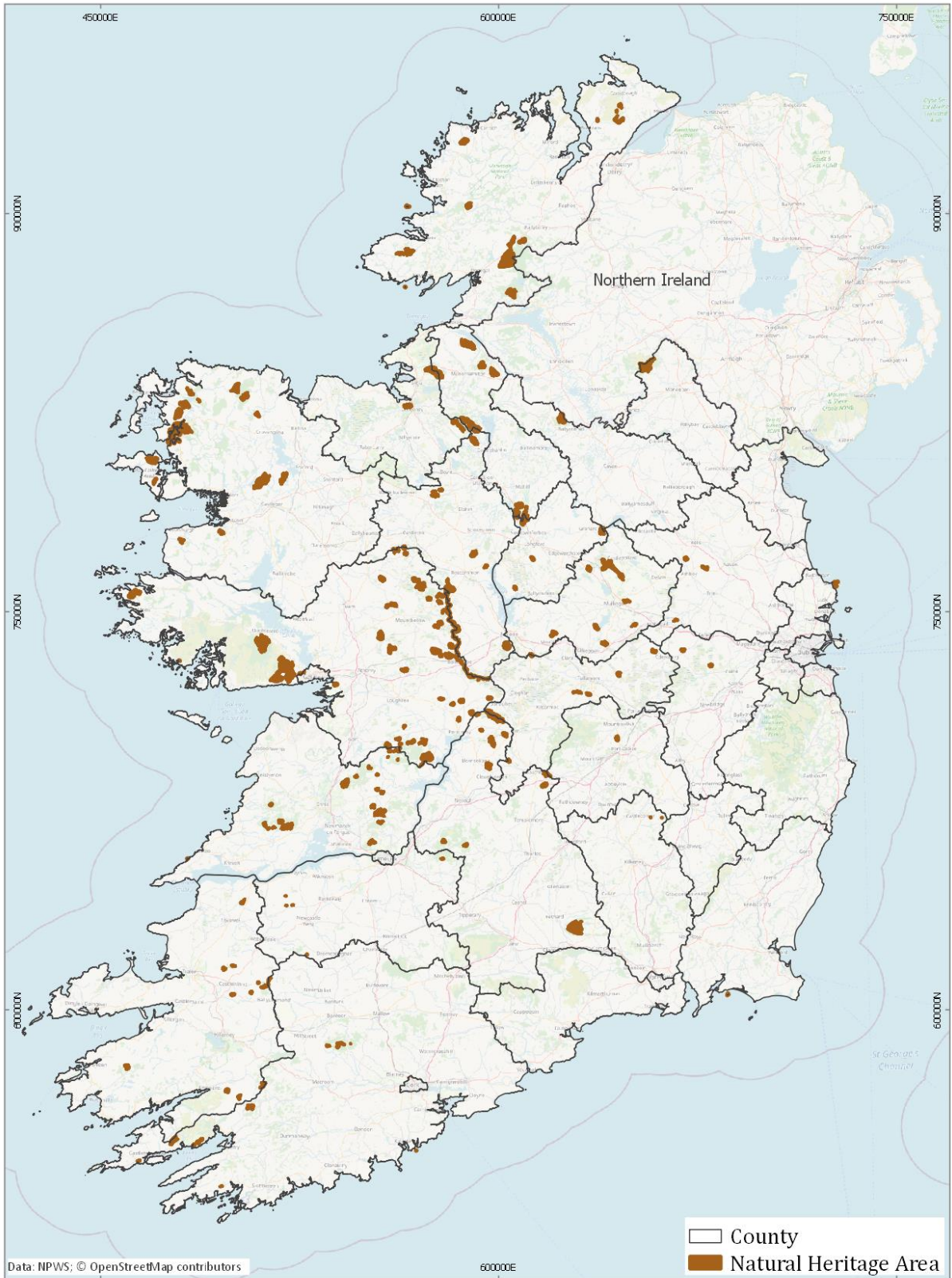


Figure 4 Natural Heritage Areas



3.2 INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

The SEA ER will describe and assess the potential for in-combination and cumulative effects of the draft plan as well as to prepare an environmental sensitivity map(ESM) that will assist in identifying areas relevant to the plan area.

3.3. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AT SCOPING STAGE

Potential significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, and likely significant environmental effects, if any, will be identified by the SEA and assessed. Such effects will include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Construction and operational impacts will be considered. Where appropriate, seasonality will be considered in determining relevant effects. When assessing cumulative effects consideration will be given to any outputs from national studies on cumulative effects in SEA. See **Table 2** below.

TABLE 2 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

SEA Topic Areas	Potential Effects
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational pressures associated with existing infrastructure with potential effects on receiving waters • Possible disturbance/permanent loss to bird and bat species associated with the habitats at particular sites and within the wider landscape; • Loss or fragmentation of ecological corridors • Enhancing green infrastructure and blue infrastructure • Increased human presence and artificial surfaces including lighting associated with built development activities; • Managing and controlling alien invasive plant species; • Extreme weather events particularly precipitation and storms and their impact on biodiversity, • Effects of flooding events on ecological resources and effects on water quality • Provision of appropriate buffer zones around key wildlife areas • Minimising soil sealing and sustainable use of soil and water resources.
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects in terms of enhancing young people’s access and engagement with angling • Potential for increasing universal access to angling • Enhancing understanding and appreciation of connections to nature • Potential increased demand on angling facilities such as pontoons, toilets, parking etc.

SEA Topic Areas	Potential Effects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to promote non vehicular access to angling via existing cycling and walking routes.
Soil and Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for reuse of existing buildings associated with angling provision • Potential for soil trampling, compaction and increased run off • Potential for spread of alien and invasive species
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for adverse local effects on water quality and water dependant habitats • Potential for good practice in angling infrastructure and water quality considerations • Potential to strategically direct angling infrastructure to less sensitive areas • Improve water quality by identifying and addressing impacts on the water environment • Potential to utilise Nature based solutions associated with angling infrastructure
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to support non vehicular access to angling
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed adaptation and mitigation to climate change associated with rivers, lakes and potential angling proposals • Recognise existing and increased risk of extreme weather events • Increased flood risk associated with pluvial, fluvial and coastal sources • Potential new angling infrastructure to be climate change proofed and reduce carbon life cycle
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of cultural heritage along with nature heritage for young anglers • At local level, recognise vernacular architecture and avoid adverse effects on cultural heritage • Consider potential effects on archaeological features including potential underwater archaeology associated with new infrastructure or increased access
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring wastewater capacity and services are present in advance of any new proposed infrastructure • Consider effects of climate change on material assets • Consider potential for littering and waste
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential local loss of landscape character • Potential to enhance local landscape character through measures • Potential to highlight and raise awareness of different waterscapes including historical and heritage landscapes • Embed green and blue infrastructure considerations
Inter-relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider blue and green infrastructure resources and potential to enhance same • Embed climate change adaptation and mitigation throughout • Potential interactions between access to angling, blue space and well being.

4 APPROACH TO THE ASSESSMENT AND SCOPING OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

4.1 INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH

The overall aim of the SEA is to facilitate environmental protection and to allow the integration of environmental considerations into the draft plan.

To that end, the SEA process assesses the draft plan as it evolves in terms of its environmental impacts, positive, negative, neutral, cumulative and synergistic and also in terms of duration i.e.: short, medium, long term, temporary, permanent, and secondary effects. This process highlights how improvements can be integrated into the plan to increase its environmental performance, maintain and enhance environmental resources.

The following guidelines will be used in this SEA:

- *Good practice guidance on cumulative effects assessment in SEA (EPA 2020)*
- *Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring (EPA 2020)*
- *SEA Pack (EPA 2020)*
- *Integrating Climate Change into Strategic Environmental Assessment in Ireland – A Guidance Note,(EPA, 2019)*
- *Developing and assessing alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment, (EPA, 2015)*
- *Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes - Practitioner’s Manual (2013)*
- *Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland –Synthesis report (EPA, 2003)*
- *Implementation of SEA Directive 92001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment –Guidelines for Local Authorities and Planning Authorities” (DEHLG, 2004).*

The likely significant effects on the environment will be described in the SEA Environmental Report and measures will be identified to avoid, reduce or mitigate any significant effects of the draft plan.

The SEA will be undertaken in tandem with the following environmental assessments, and these will inform and underpin the SEA process.

4.2 HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT

The Habitats Directive requires, *inter alia*, that plans and programmes undergo AA screening to establish the likely or potential effects arising from implementation of the plan. If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant or uncertain then the plan must undergo Stage 2 AA. The preparation of the draft plan, SEA and AA are taking place concurrently and the findings of the AA will inform both the SEA and the plan itself. The SEA

will also follow elements of Integrated Biodiversity Assessment. Submissions/parts of submissions on AA made during the SEA Scoping process will be taken into account while undertaking the AA as relevant.

4.3 GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The SEA will also use a Geographical Information System (GIS) in the following ways:

- To provide baseline information on a range of environmental parameters
- To assist in assessment of alternatives
- To help assess in-combination or cumulative impacts
- To provide maps to illustrate environmental parameters in the SEA Environmental Report.

It is proposed to develop a more focused environmental constraints and sensitivity map early in the SEA process; this will utilise the EPA ESM approach.

4.4 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the SEA Objectives is to ensure that the assessment process is transparent and robust and that the draft plan considers and addresses potential environmental effects. SEA Objectives have been set for each of the environmental topics outlined in Section 3.

These objectives are derived from the principles identified through the plan, policy and programme review in Section 2 of this Scoping Report. Given the scale of the draft plan, these objectives may be amended to reflect those in the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies so the following are draft only. The results of this will be summarised in a table, called an evaluation matrix.

The Strategic Environmental Objectives are shown in **Table 4** below:

TABLE 3 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
B1	B1 – Protect, conserve, enhance where possible and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of the broad range of habitats, species and wildlife corridors
B2	B2 – To achieve the conservation objectives of European Sites (SACs and SPAs) and other sites of nature conservation
B3	B3 - Conserve and protect other sites of nature conservation including NHAs, pNHAs, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries as well as

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives
	protected species outside these areas as covered by the Wildlife Act.
B4	B4 - Meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the National River Basin Management Plan.
B5	B5 – To minimise and, where possible, eliminate threats to bio-diversity including invasive species
Population and human health	
P1	P1 – Protect, enhance and improve young people’s quality of life based on engagement and access to angling
	P2 - To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from incompatible land uses/developments
Water	
W1	W1 – Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow).
W2	W2 – Maintain or improve the quality of surface water and groundwater (including estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the National River Basin Management Plan and POMS.
W3	W3 Reduce the impact of polluting substances to all waters and prevent pollution and contamination of ground water by adhering to aquifer protection plans and to maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.
W4	W4 —Protect flood plains and areas of flood risk from development through avoidance, mitigation and adaptation measures
W5	W5 – To promote a responsible attitude to recreation and amenity use of water in relation to water quality and disturbance to species and to prevent pollution and contamination of designated bathing waters.
Soil and Geology	
S1	S1 – - Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites .

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives	
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Climate Change, Air Quality		
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C1		C1 Recognise the ecosystems functions of habitats in and around the plan area and promote nature based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
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C2		C2 - Reduce car dependency in accessing angling and promote alternative modes of transport
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Material Assets		
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Transport	T1	T1 – Maximise sustainable modes of transport and encourage use of walkways/cycle paths as alternative routes angling.
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Waste	WA1	WA1 – Implement the waste pyramid and encourage reuse/recycling of material wherever possible
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Water Supply	WS1	WS1 - To ensure adequate and clean drinking water supplies.
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	WW1	WW1 - Reduce the dependency on individual proprietary wastewater treatment facilities and ensure the highest standards possible in existing and future wastewater treatment facilities.
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Cultural Heritage		
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	CH1	CH1 – Protect and conserve the cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded and unrecorded monuments), architectural (Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers etc.).
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Landscape		
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	L1	Ensure no significant disruption of historic/cultural landscapes and features
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Inter-relationships	I1	IR1 Promote and enhance blue and green infrastructure networks, including riparian zones and wildlife corridors where possible.
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4.4 SCOPING OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The following environmental parameters are listed in the SEA Regulations. Each parameter has been considered with an overarching question of significance:

- Is this an issue that will change/affect the physical proposals of the plan and policy framework?

Where the answer was yes, the parameter is scoped in. **Table 5** below presents this information along with proposed data sources.

TABLE 4 SEA PARAMETERS –SCOPING IN OR OUT.

Topic	Scoped in	Data sources
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Yes	Aerial photography Habitat Surveys and other primary research NPWS datasets Bat Conservation Ireland dataset Birdwatch Ireland Ecological surveys associated with planning applications Consultation with statutory bodies
Population and Human Health	Yes	Census 2016 Data Pobal data IFI data on angling Institute of Public health HSE
Water Resources	Yes	Irish Water Inland Fisheries Water Framework Directive Data Consultation with statutory bodies
Soil and geology	Yes	Geological Survey of Ireland Historical mapping HSE
Material Assets	Yes	Irish Water Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Climate Change, Air Quality and Noise	Yes	EPA RSES SEA ER and AA
Cultural Assets	Yes	Historic Environment Viewer Consultation with statutory bodies
Landscape	Yes	County LCAs National Seascape character assessment (draft)
Inter-relationships	Yes	Ecosystem Services Mapping (NPWS) Blue Infrastructure mapping

5 CONSULTATION AND TIMING FOR SEA SCOPING

This SEA Scoping Report will be available for comment from Wednesday 9th September 2020 to 7th October 2020 (both dates inclusive).

In making submissions, the following questions may be useful and will assist in the scoping and full environmental assessment of the draft Novice Angler's Strategy.

1. Are there particular environmental sensitivities' that are not listed/included in Section 3 of this scoping report?
2. Are there other projects in and around the draft Plan area that you consider relevant and merit inclusion?
3. Are there any reports or data of particular relevance to the listed environmental parameters in Table 4 Scoping of Environmental Topics?

In the meantime, if there are any additional issues or further comments to be made on the scope of the SEA, please address them to:

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ANNEX A SEA SCREENING DETERMINATION

Section 9 (1) of the (2004) Regulations (S.I. No. 435) (as amended) states “subject to sub-article (2), an environmental assessment shall be carried out for all plans and programmes

(a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and town and country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, or ”

(b) which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any such site.”.

The Novice Angling Strategy 2020-2025 aims to promote and support youth access and engagement with angling over a five year period whilst ensuring the statutory remit of IFI is fulfilled and the angling resource is protected and conserved in an environmentally sustainable manner for future generations to enjoy.

The Vision, Aim, objectives and work plan relate to awareness raising, encouraging and enabling clubs, further developing managed fishing locations and promotion of fishing.

The Novice Angling Strategy does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent. In order to be realised, potential projects or proposals arising from the Novice Angling Strategy will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting framework, of which the Novice Angling Strategy is not part and does not contribute towards.

Should projects arise from the Strategy, for example the further development of managed fishing locations, the application of the IFI Environmental Charter will apply. However, applying the precautionary principle and in particular the screening conclusion to the Appropriate Assessment process, the potential for likely significant effects on conservation management objectives of European Site cannot be excluded at this stage.

Therefore, when considering the second criteria for full SEA as stated above under SI 435 of 2004 (as amended), on the basis of the above assessment and consideration of the criteria as set out in Schedule 2a of the Regulations 2011 (as amended) it is considered the Novice Angling Strategy 2020-2025 is likely to give rise to significant environmental effects and does require full SEA.