



Co-funded by the  
European Union

# Cross-border marine planning

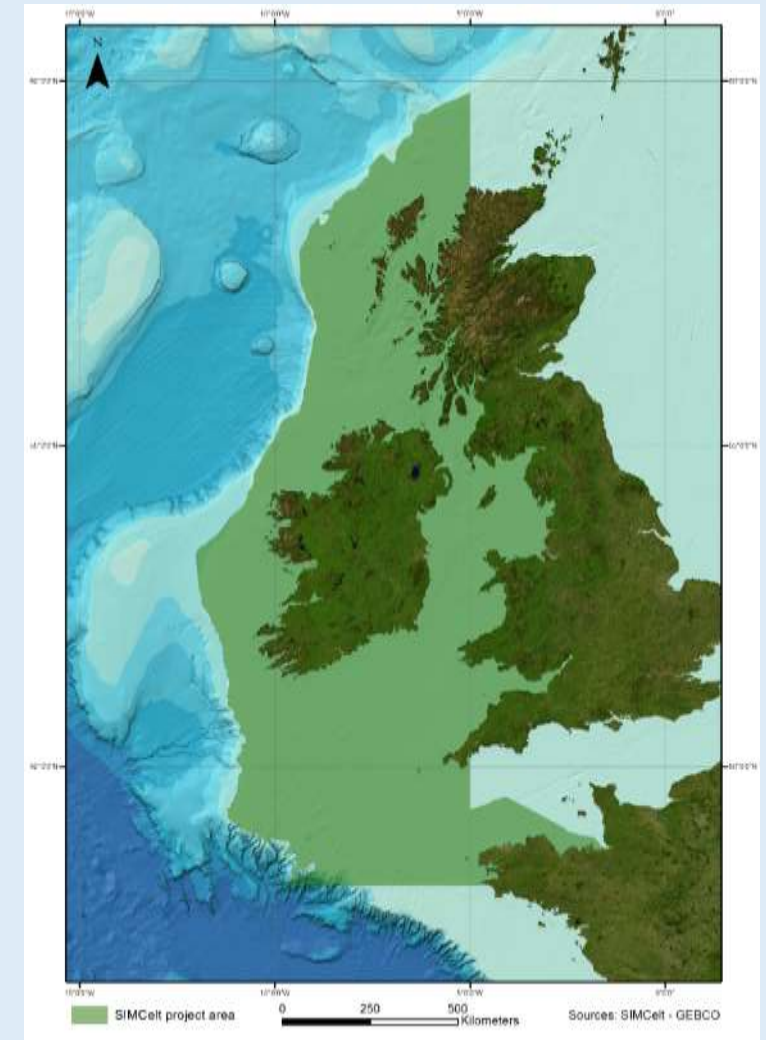
## Lessons from the Celtic Seas

Charlotte Billingham



# The SIMCelt Project

- Aims to support cooperation between Member States on the implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive in the Celtic Seas
- Informing practical aspects of MSP implementation, with a specific focus on transboundary cooperation
- 7 partners from UK, Ireland and France
- Funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EC - DG MARE)





# The SIMCelt Project

Specific actions:

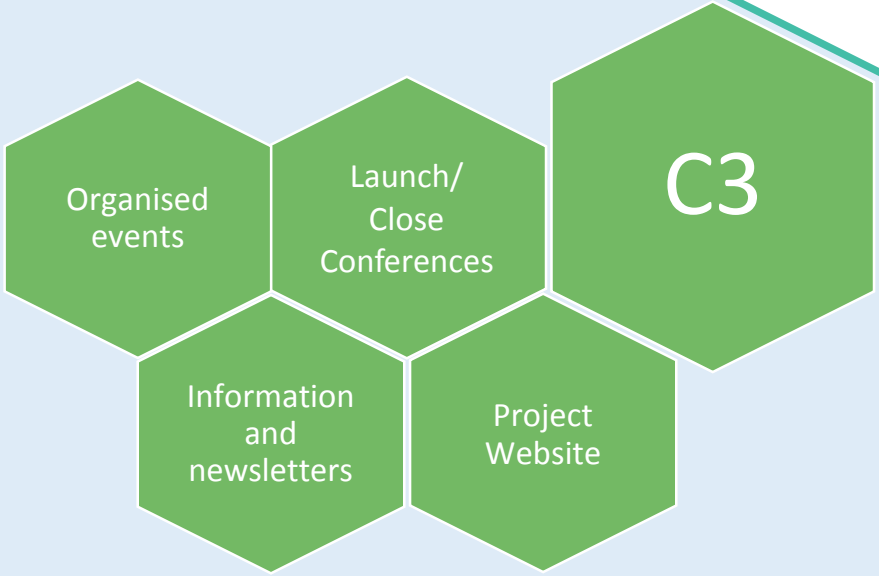
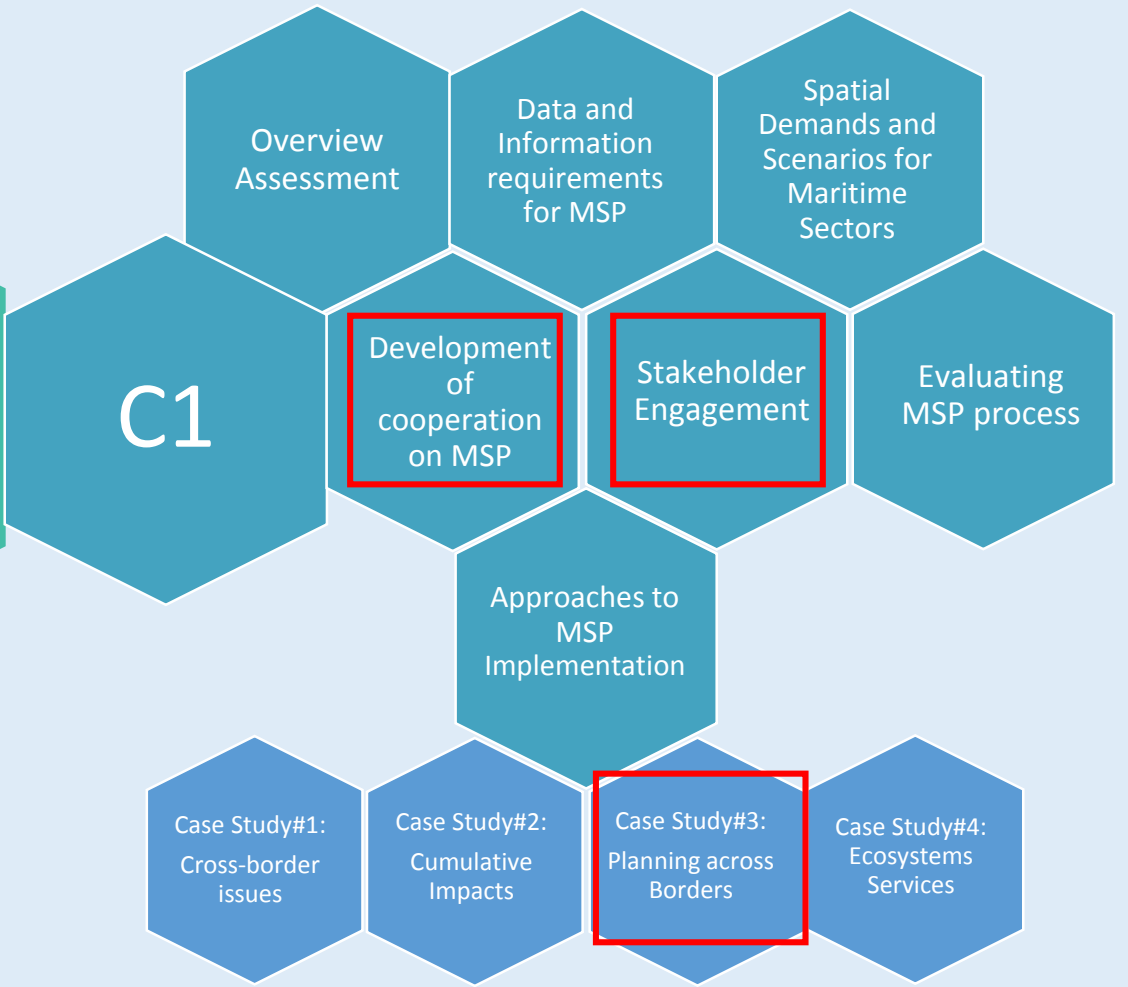
- Raise awareness and understanding of the range of factors potentially impacting on the Celtic Seas, their cumulative impact and projected future trends;
- Identify and address important data gaps, examine opportunities and best practice for data sharing and joint use of data;
- To explore the potential spatial requirements for marine conservation;
- To consider evaluation of MSP;
- To examine the challenges to, and opportunities for, transboundary cooperation on MSP and possible approaches to addressing these

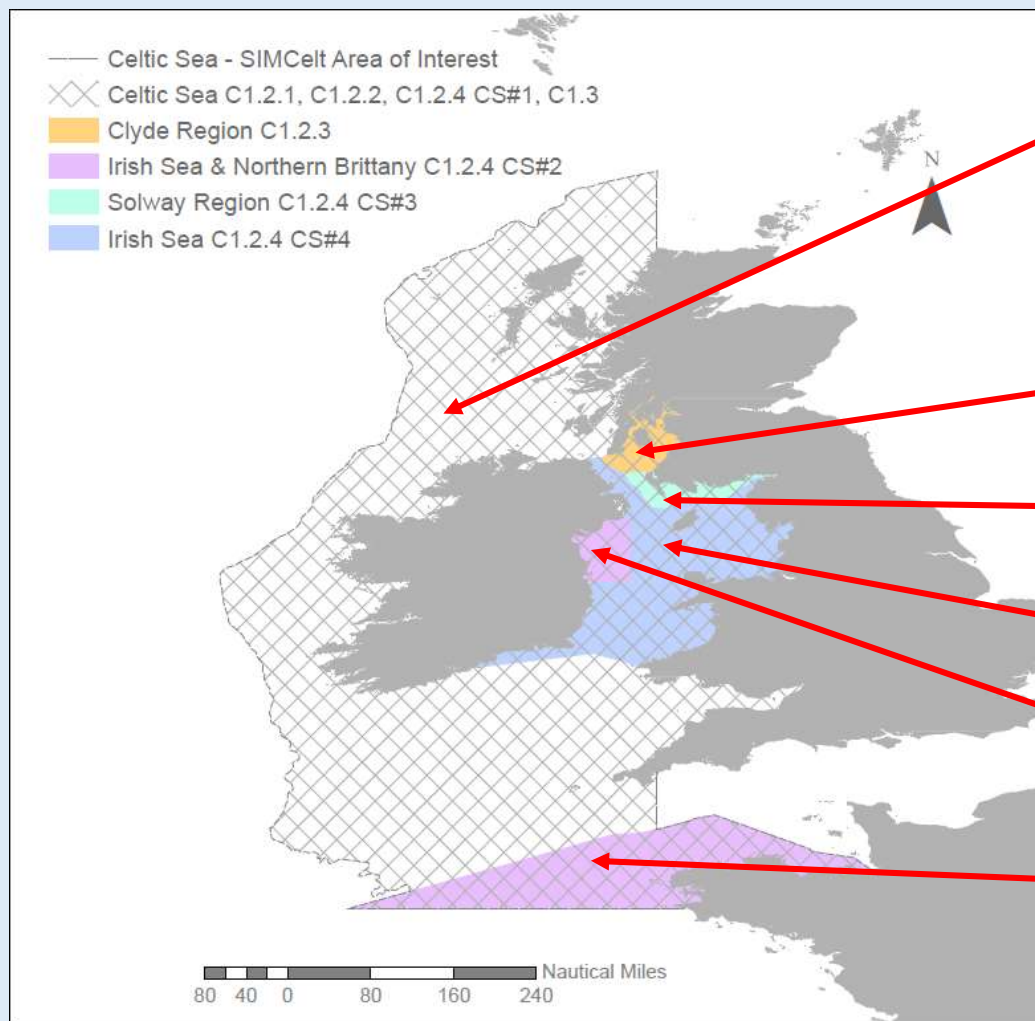


Co-funded by the European Union



Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the **Celtic Seas**





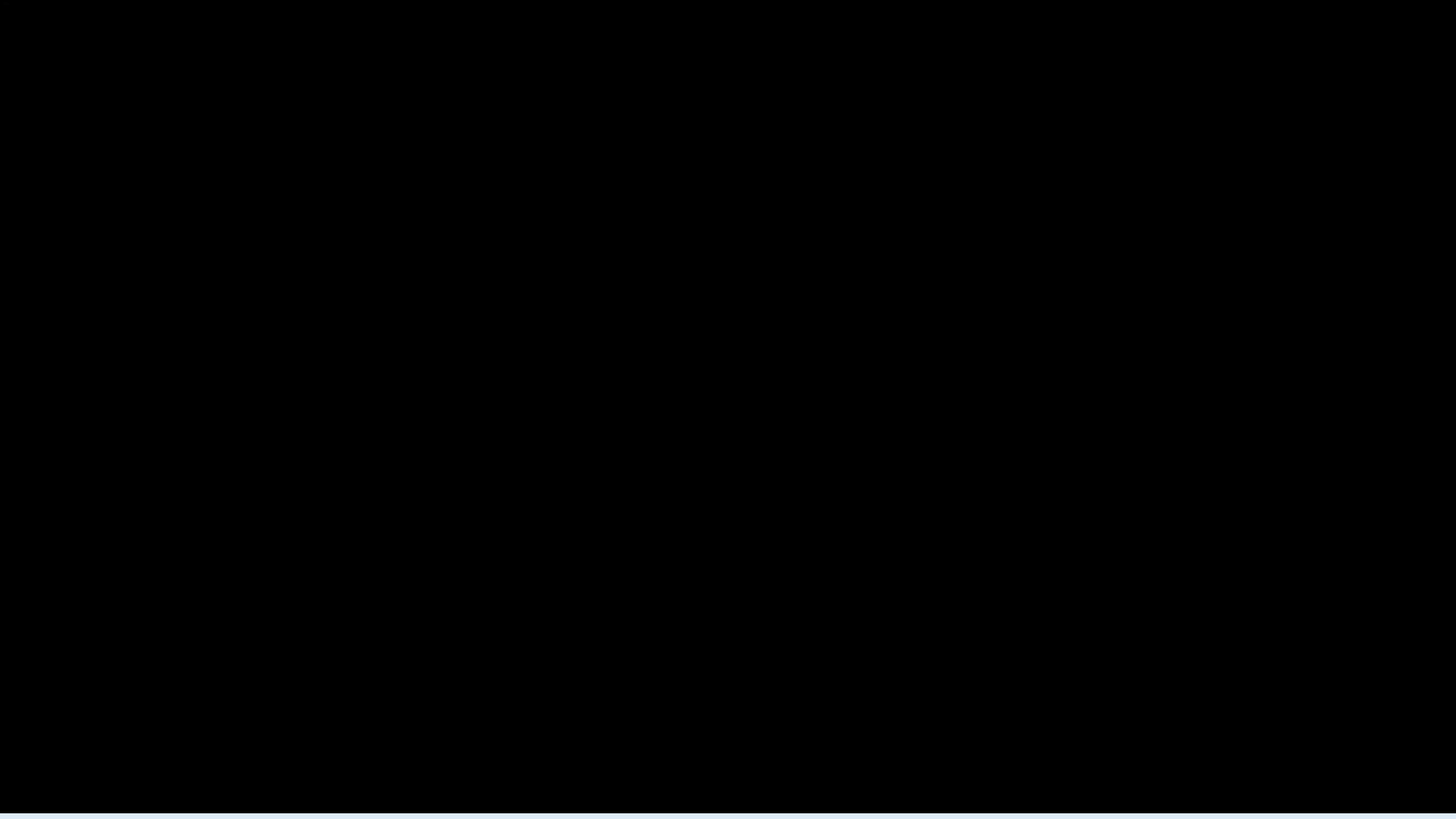
Specific Issues and  
Opportunities

Stakeholder Engagement

Planning Across Borders

Ecosystem Services

Cumulative impacts



# Case Study #3: Planning Across Borders

## The Solway Firth



Single estuary ecosystem but two separate pieces of legislation – Marine & Coastal Access Act, 2009 and Marine (Scotland) Act, 2010.

Scottish National Marine Plan in place since 2015 and north side of Solway will be a Scottish Marine Region in due course. MMO developing plans for North West Marine Areas now.

Solway Firth Partnership in existence since early 1990s

SIMCelt output: Case Study Report on Approaches to Cross-Border Cooperation including Stakeholder Engagement Mechanisms.



# Solway Firth – Sectoral Interactions Matrix

- Originally carried out in 2010/11 capturing perceived interactions between different activities across the estuary.
- SIMCelt work (2017) has updated some elements in a useful stakeholder engagement exercise - marine planning context on the Solway has evolved
- Some unexpected outcomes e.g. stakeholders thinking **that 5 years was too soon** to be carrying out that sort of exercise again
- Not an exhaustive process –remember it’s a snapshot

Solway Firth Sectoral Interactions Matrix		Renewable Energy			Subsea cables and pipelines		
Natural Heritage Management	Intertidal environment/communities	conflict	conflict	incompatible	neutral	neutral	neutral
	Seabed environment/communities						
	Breeding and wintering birds	conflict	conflict	incompatible	neutral	neutral	neutral
	Other mobile/migratory species	conflict	conflict	conflict	conflict	conflict	conflict
	Management of coastal habitats	competition	competition	conflict	competition	competition	competition

Figure 2: Section of the Sectoral Interactions matrix

Table 1: Options for response

Option	Definition
Competition	Where there is sustainable competition for access to the same resources or areas between the other (sub) sector and your (sub)sector
Conflict	Where conflict arises as a consequence of unmanaged competition between the other (sub) sector and your (sub)sector
Incompatible	Where there is a fundamental and unmanageable incompatibility between the activity of the other (sub) sector and your (sub)sector
Neutral	Where the activity of the other (sub) sector has no positive or negative influence on your (sub)sector
Positive	Where the activity of the other (sub) sector has a positive influence on your (sub)sector

Blank cells indicate no response



## C1.3: Development of Co-operation on MSP

- Part I – Outline of relevant legal instruments
- Part II – Other policies and mechanisms
- Part III – Competent Authorities for MSP and their existing links
- Part IV – SIMCelt Experience on Development of Cooperation
- Part V – Discussion and Recommendations



## Lessons learned?

- 2 year project is too short!
- Different timescales operating in Member States - potential for **disjointed** stakeholder engagement
- Coastal Partnerships, where they exist, can play a role in keeping stakeholders updated and supported in transboundary areas to **avoid stakeholder fatigue**
  - Solway Firth Partnership participate in MMO Cause and Effect workshops and Marine Scotland are consulted to align resulting plan iterations with Scottish Marine Plan
- EBA essential as despite human boundaries, dealing with **one ecosystem**



# Maritime Spatial Planning: Transboundary Cooperation in the Celtic Seas

SIMCelt Closing Conference

28-29<sup>th</sup> November, Liverpool, UK



Co-funded by the  
European Union



AGENCE FRANÇAISE  
POUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ



Department of  
Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs

[www.demra.gov.uk](http://www.demra.gov.uk)



MaREI

Centre for Marine and  
Renewable Energy



UCC

University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOileáirí Corcaigh



Marine Institute  
*Fóras na Mara*

marinescotland



Scottish Government  
Riaghaidh na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)

SHOM

UNION OF FRANCE



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/maritime-spatial-planning-transboundary-cooperation-in-the-celtic-seas-tickets-34418148609>

Free to attend!