



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Policy and Regulation Update

Martina Hennessy, Petroleum Affairs Division
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Atlantic Ireland, 29 October 2019



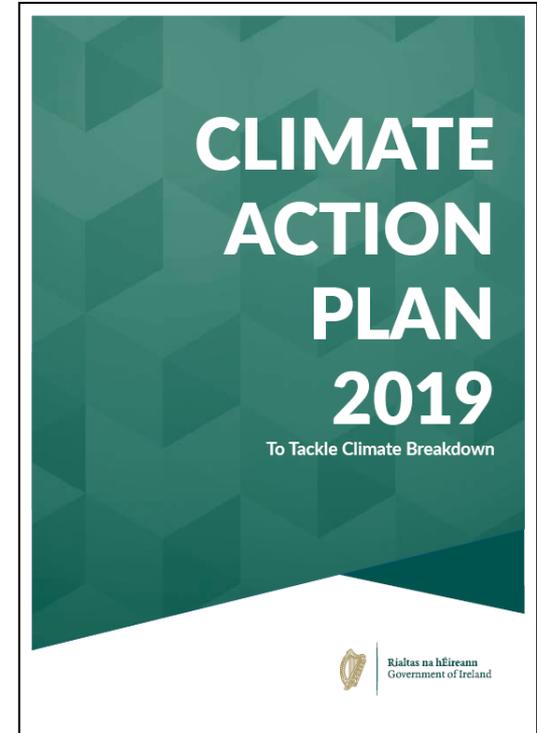
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Policy Developments

Climate Action Plan – June 2019



- Sets 2030 targets for emissions reduction, with a trajectory to net zero by 2050
- 183 actions with clear timelines and owners
- Structures for strong governance and oversight
- Citizen involvement
- Establishes a Just Transition Review Group



International Energy Agency



- In-Depth Review of Ireland's Energy Policies
- Published April 2019

Chapter 4, Natural Gas

“The government of Ireland should ensure a stable and streamlined regulatory framework, and conduct regular licensing rounds, to encourage exploration activities and, subsequently, develop domestic reserves.”



Energy Transition

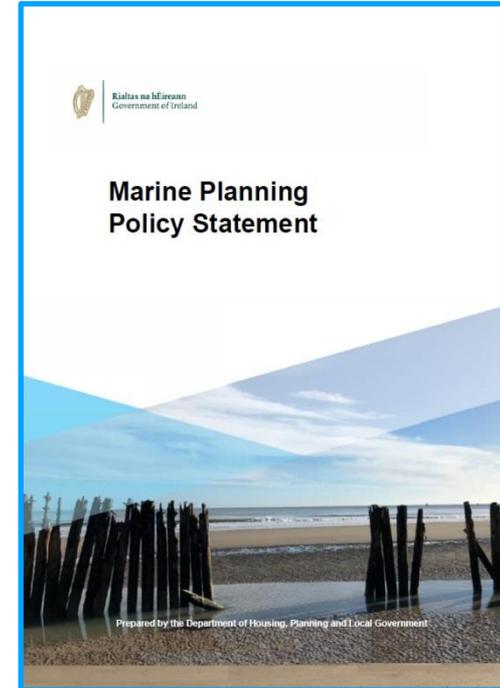


- Taoiseach and Minister Bruton sought Climate Change Advisory Council advice on future exploration and recovery of Ireland's oil and gas resources.
- CCAC advised:
 - *Exploration and recovery of new offshore oil reserves is incompatible with the transition to renewables.*
 - *Recommendation made that exploration for gas should continue during the transition to renewables.*
- At the UN Climate Action Summit on 23 September the Taoiseach stated that Ireland would accept this advice.
- Focus now is on establishing the policy principles that will underpin future exploration and production activities in Ireland's Offshore.
- Full policy statement to be delivered soon.

Marine Policy Developments



- **EU Directive - Marine Spatial Plan to be in place Q1 2021**
 - *“Process by which the relevant Member State’s authorities analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives”*
- **Marine Planning Policy Statement**
 - Outlines a vision for Ireland’s marine planning system
 - Will shortly be published
- **Draft National Marine Planning Framework**
 - Will set out long term planning objectives and priorities for our marine areas over a 20 year horizon
 - Consultation period to commence within weeks



International Developments



Offshore Safety Directive

- European Commission review of Offshore Safety Directive delayed beyond scheduled July 2019.
 - Understand Report likely in first half 2020
 - Not expecting legislative proposal at that point

OSPAR Convention

- OSPAR, a convention for protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic, is developing a new strategy for the period 2020 to 2030
 - Brent decommissioning consultative meeting
 - Ireland has no derogation applicable facilities

Enhancing our Knowledge Base



The ObSERVE Programme was established to increase the level of baseline data available on protected species in frontier areas.

- Phase 1:
 - Primarily funded by PIP
 - NPWS also a partner
 - Data is now publically available
- Phase 2 scoping is currently underway
 - Expanding to additional partners
 - Building on findings from Phase 1





Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Legislative Updates

Environmental Impact Assessments



Legislative Developments

- EU Directive 2014
- New Statutory Instrument providing for EIA Screening and independent environmental assessments introduced in February 2019
- Legislation in progress for full transposition of the EIA Directive

Process Changes 2019

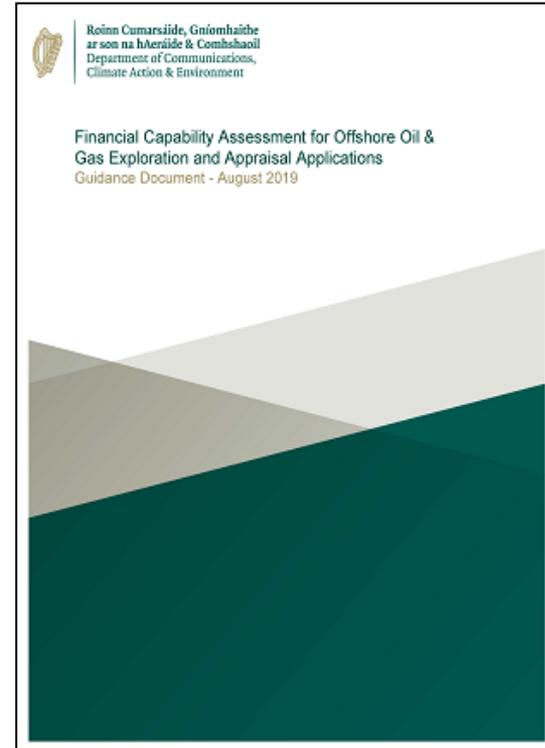
- Independent review of environmental assessments of activities is required in accordance with the EIA, Birds & Habitats Directives.
- Environmental Assessment Unit established.
- Public consultation is a core part of the process.

Financial Capacity Assessment Guidelines



Developed to provide clarity and set expectations

- Cost of work programmes to be submitted
- Viability check
 - Going Concern
 - Net Assets
 - Current Ratio
 - Gearing
- Financial Capacity Assessment
 - Investment Cover
 - Cash Cover
- Sets out various funding arrangements for extenuating circumstances



Marine Planning Legislation



- *Marine Planning and Development Management Bill*
 - Intention is to take a comprehensive and holistic approach to the management of development and activities in the marine space.
 - Opportunity to establish a streamlined consent process to apply to all activities in Ireland's offshore areas.
- Drafting has been initiated
- Complex legislation, involves many sectors
- Led by Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Significant area of focus for DCCAE

To Close – Key Points



- Recognise the challenge of uncertainty – actively working to address that in very near term
- Policy Principles for exploration activities in the context of the Climate Action Plan are in development
- Environmental Impact Assessments
 - Comprehensive, independent, environmental assessment involving public consultation are now in place
 - Focus is on streamlining the processes and providing clarity on expectations
- Strategic Focus on the Marine Spatial Plan and associated legislation



Thank You