



Irish Wind Energy Association

Marine Planning and Development Management (MPDM) Bill

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Our >150 Members Cover All Aspects of Onshore & Offshore Wind

- Wind farm developers
- Turbine manufacturers
- Construction companies
- Supply companies
- Accountants
- Insurance
- Consultancy
- Legal firms
- Banks
- Small local businesses



Huge Benefits for the Climate & the Economy

1. Programme for Government now aiming for 5 GW by 2030 and 30 GW for export.
2. 5 GW of offshore wind could save 7-8 million tonnes of CO₂ – compared to a total of 12 Mt from Ireland's electricity sector today – and create thousands of jobs.
3. Providing 30 GW of wind energy to Europe could transform Ireland's industrial base.

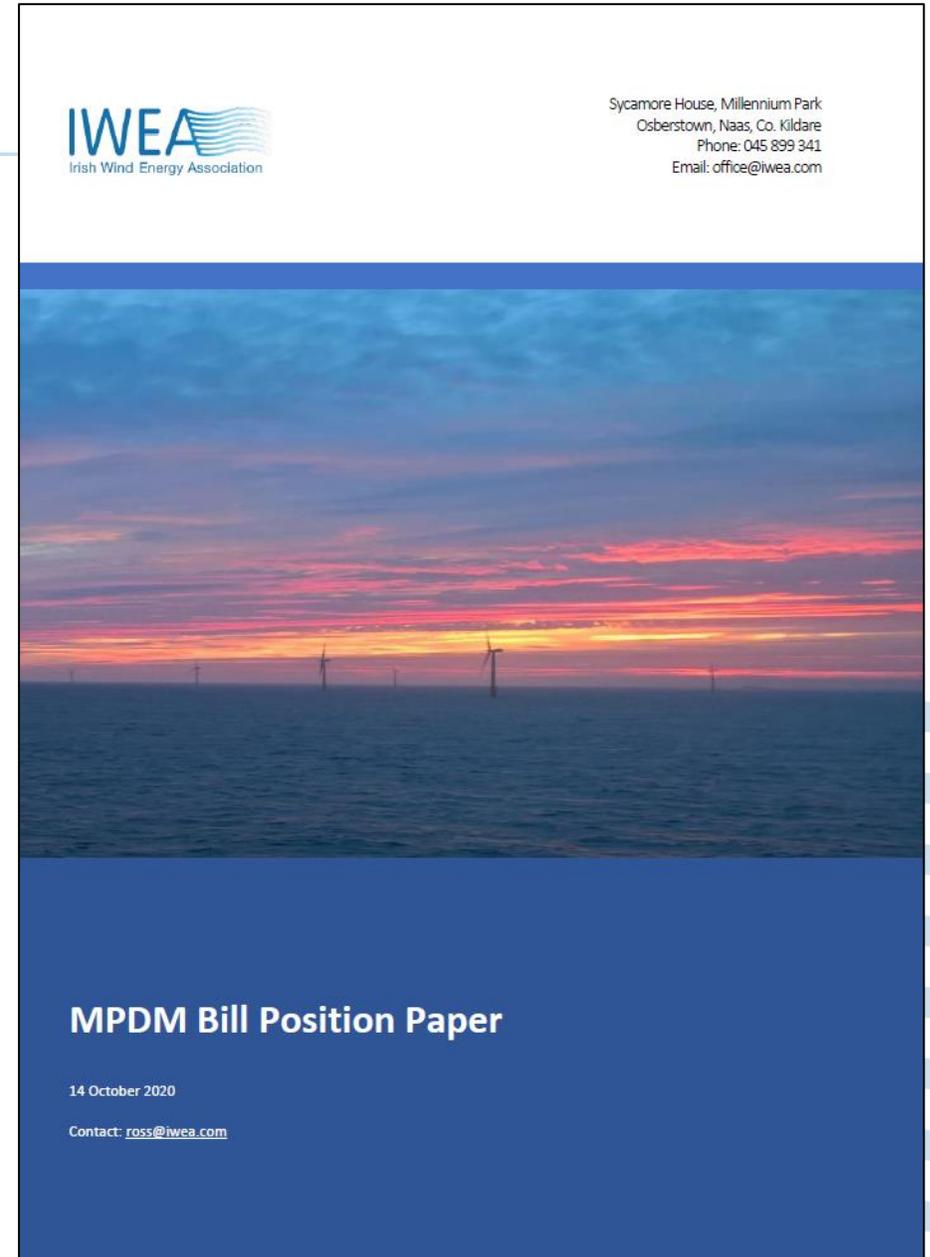


Urgent: We have the projects; but not a lot of time (or resources).

1. We have the project pipeline (>15 GW) to meet the 2030 target (5 GW) but we cannot move forward without the MPDM Bill and time is running out.
2. If a project doesn't have planning by 2025 at the latest, then it is unlikely to be built by 2030.

Some Critical Areas in the MPDM Bill

1. Design Envelope Flexibility
2. Streamlining to reduce the time to deliver projects
3. Milestones for the Maritime Areas Consent



1. Design Envelope Flexibility

- **What is the problem?**

- Offshore wind energy technology is evolving at a rapid pace so it may not be possible, at the start of the consenting process, to predict what is needed by the end.

- **What is the solution?**

- The Design Envelope approach allows a developer to describe the project within a number of agreed parameters for the purposes of an EIA and provide its environmental reports based on the maximum extents of the parameters, i.e. a 'worst-case' scenario. This provides flexibility and allows for the latest technology to be used, reducing the price of electricity for consumers.
- This 'Design Envelope' approach has been successfully used in offshore wind in the UK, reducing the resource and programme burden for all parties associated with post-consent modifications. These modifications would have to be within the limits of the consented envelope.
- IWEA recommends the same approach is included in the MPDM Bill.

2. Streamlining

- **What is the problem?**

- The proposed consenting regime for offshore wind energy is lengthy and complex. This means it will take longer for projects to get consent. We need a streamlined approach that ensures a robust and transparent planning system, but that enables projects to proceed quickly.

- **What is the solution?**

- A single consenting body (i.e. An Bord Pleanála) under a single consenting regime (i.e. the MPDM Act) for both the offshore and onshore aspects of the project.
- Set out the timeframe to decide a MAC application to give certainty to developers and stakeholders.
- Clarify in legislation who will make determinations on survey works and permit certain survey activity under a conditional MAC / agreement for lease
- Heads 63, 64 and 66 should include statutory timeframes for the consenting body set out in the Bill.

3. Milestones for Maritime Area Consent

- **What is the problem?**

- We welcome amalgamating and front-ending the Planning Interest and Maritime Area Consent into a conditional MAC but we need to ensure this does not lead to speculative hoarding of the seabed.

- **What is the solution?**

- Develop specific milestones to which developers must adhere to retain a conditional MAC, similar to the British system. If milestones are missed the department can revoke the conditional MAC offer.
- The term of the agreement for lease with the Crown Estate is a maximum of 10 years and the same should be used in the MPDM Bill.
- Milestones could include:
 - Evidence of site development commencement - Geotechnical, geophysical, bird and marine mammal surveys
 - Planning permission application submitted
- Industry wants to work with Committee members and the department to identify how the milestone approach would work in a way that is fair and transparent.