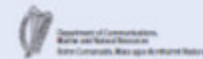


# Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan: An Taisce's Viewpoint

Elizabeth Muldowney  
Energy Officer

# OREDPA: Outline

- What?
- Why?
- Who?
- How?
- When?
- Where?
- An Taisce's Focus
- Recommendations



Ocean Energy in Ireland



# OREDPA: Outline

- What is the OREDPA?
  - A strategy to exploit Ireland's globally unequalled offshore renewable energy resources
  - Based on a Strategic Environmental Assessment
    - Examining various development scenarios
      - Offshore Wind
      - Wave
      - Tidal
      - Ascertain feasibility of various levels



# OREDPA: Outline

- Why is the OREDPA being developed?
  - To Follow on from the 2005 Ocean Energy in Ireland Report
  - To reduce Ireland's dependence on imported fossil fuels
  - To increase security of energy supply
  - To reduce carbon emissions
  - To "...avert runaway climate change..."

- Minister Eamon Ryan, 2010



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

## Security of Supply

- Strongly support reduction in reliance on imported fossil fuels
- OREDPA: Medium – long term solution
- What happens between now and commercial application?
- Imported fossil fuel exit strategy must be developed in tandem
  - Carbon reduction strategy
  - Climate change strategy
  - Human rights accords
    - What are the human rights in countries of source?
    - LNG for e.g. Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Qatar, Libya, Iran
  - Climate justice



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus



"The poorest people, who are not responsible for carbon emissions into the atmosphere, will be the worst hit by the devastations of climate change - but the climate change discourse has so far not been people-centred."

-Mary Robinson, Dhaka, Bangladesh,  
09 February 2011



# OREDPA: Outline

- Who is developing the OREDPA?
  - DCENR
  - Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
    - Ocean Energy Unit
  - Expert Consultants
  - Technical Steering Group
    - Various Government Departments
    - Various NGO's
    - Eirgrid



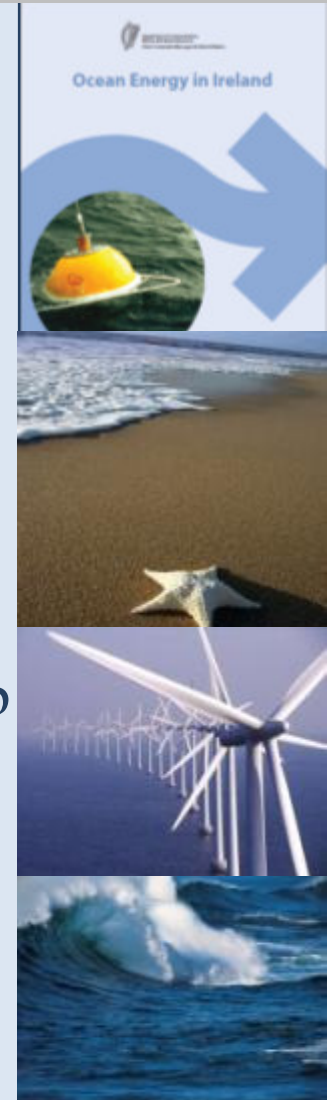
# OREDPA: Outline

- How is the OREDPA being developed?
  - Preparation of an Environmental Report
    - Strategic Environmental Assessment
      - Must be carried out in accordance with EU Directive (2001/42/EC)
    - Scoping Report
      - Provides information on what should be included in the Environmental Report
    - Public Consultation



# OREDPA: Outline

- When is the OREDPA being developed?
  - Began in 2009
  - Currently at Public Consultation Stage
    - Draft plan available
    - Deadline: 1 month from NIS publication
    - Natura Impact Statement (NIS) being drawn up
      - To inform the appropriate assessment part of the OREDPA
      - Not yet published – due this month



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

## Draft Plan makes a number of statements...

### 1. A Key Challenge will be:

"...to develop a mechanism for the enhanced co-ordination and collaboration on the sector between the relevant bodies..."

### An Taisce Comment:

This has already been done – it is, for all intents and purposes, the steering group!

### An Taisce Recommendation = SEA Recommendation Action 1

Create a Policy Integration Group based on the steering group ensuring the obligatory involvement of key decision makers



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

## Draft Plan makes a number of statements...

### 2. The NREAP noted

"...significant off-shore resources which hold electricity export potential and could potentially be available for joint projects with other [EU] MS [Member States] given the right circumstances..."

### An Taisce Comment:

Given current economic circumstances in Ireland it is imperative that joint projects with other EU States take place

### An Taisce Recommendation:

Fast-track Grid interconnection with the UK and France with joint funding for all projects (An Taisce refers to Eirgrid's Interconnection Economic Feasibility Report)



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

## Draft Plan makes a number of statements...

### 3. Grid Development

"A Gate 3 liaison group involving the TSO, DSO, regulator and industry representatives meets on a regular basis and all parties are committed to the full roll-out of the Gate."

#### **An Taisce Comment:**

There is no involvement of planning stakeholders in this group

#### **An Taisce Recommendation:**

Ensure planning stakeholders are included in Gate 3 liaison group to correct the disconnect between regulatory and planning processes.



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

	Location	MW	Grid Connection Offer	Foreshore Lease
Arklow Bank	Irish Sea	520 MW	No grid connection offer. Application post cut off date for Gate 3	YES
Codling Bank	Irish Sea	1100 MW	No grid connection offer. Application post cut off date for Gate 3	YES
Dublin Array (called 'Kish Banks' in the Gate 3 Direction) <sup>12</sup>	Irish Sea	364 MW	In Gate 3	Foreshore Lease application being processed by DEHLG
Oriel	Irish Sea	330 MW	In Gate 3	Foreshore Lease application being processed by DEHLG
Scoirde or 'Fuinneamh Scoirde Teo' (called Doolick in the Gate 3 Direction)	Atlantic	300 MW	In Gate 3	Foreshore Lease application being processed by DEHLG

## Planning Disconnect

- 2 offshore wind-farms have foreshore leases but are not in Gate 3.
- 2 projects are in Gate 3 but have no foreshore lease
- IWEA warns on its website, "...unless you are already within the Gate processing system, there could be significant long term delays in getting connections through the current connection process."



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

## Draft Plan makes a number of statements...

### 4. Test Site: Bellmullet Co Mayo

"At the moment the project is in Site Investigation and Design phase. The site is expected to be operational in 2012. It will be connected to the national electricity grid and will provide facilities for the testing of full scale devices in development by Irish and multi-national companies and will be able to accommodate up to 3 devices at any one time."

#### **An Taisce Comment:**

According to one of the technology developers it will be at least 2013 – 2015 before this is on the Grid!

#### **An Taisce Recommendation:**

Put forward a realistic time frame



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

- **Socio-economic Aspects Recommendations**
  - Add an action to Consenting & Planning
    - Develop a model of public consultation
    - Include this in planning system
    - Obligate developers to ensure consultation takes place as early in the process as possible
      - **Example:**  
Monaghan Model used in Belmullet wave site as result of An Taisce's Energy Forum



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

## Avoid Guidelines!



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

## Guidelines

Can be interpreted in a myriad of ways by a myriad of stakeholders

## Ensure National Obligations

To avoid consistency of inconsistency as currently exists cross-county councils

## Regulatory/Planning Communication

Oblige CER to communicate with Dept. Environment Planning Division/County Planning Boards/An Bord Pleanála



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Focus

## Reiteration...

Recommendation: Develop  
Imported Fossil Fuel Exit Strategy  
in tandem with the OREDPA!



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Viewpoint

## All in all a High-Quality Visionary Document



# OREDPA: An Taisce's Viewpoint

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