



## Invitation to tender for research

### Identifying knowledge gaps on the impacts of Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) on Marine Biodiversity.

The Irish Environmental Network (IEN) is the umbrella network for national Environmental Non-Government Organisations (ENGOS) in the Republic of Ireland. It is made up of over 38 national ENGOS that work both individually and jointly to protect and enhance the environment, and to place environmental issues centre stage in Ireland and internationally. The IEN represents and supports national ENGOS, through capacity building and funding support and advocacy work.

The work of IEN members covers a broad range of areas including habitat conservation, wildlife protection, environmental education, sustainability, waste and energy issues, as well as environmental campaigning and lobbying.

#### **Project Aim:**

The primary aim of this project is to research and develop a comprehensive report examining the current state of knowledge on the impacts of Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) developments on marine biodiversity, with a particular focus on Irish waters. This report will identify critical knowledge gaps and establish priorities for future research to ensure that the development of ORE is compatible with the conservation of marine ecosystems.

The findings from this project will form the basis for future research into the ecological impacts of ORE in Ireland, and inform evidence-based decision-making for the sustainable development of ORE.

#### **The report will:**

##### **1 - Review Current Knowledge**

- Identify and summarise existing research on the impacts of ORE on marine biodiversity, including effects on species and habitats, with a particular focus on Irish and Northeast Atlantic waters.

##### **2 - Identify Knowledge Gaps**

- Highlight critical gaps in understanding across all stages, types, and scales of ORE development

##### **3 - Prioritize Research Needs**

- Propose a prioritization framework for addressing knowledge gaps to support focused and impactful future research.

**Themes to be covered will include:**

1. **Impacts of ORE development on marine biodiversity:**
  - a. Effects on species and habitats, this can include negative or positive impacts and their likelihood.
  - b. Impacts of different types of ORE technology.
  - c. Cumulative impacts
  - d. Indirect and onshore impacts, such as resource extraction and port development.
2. **Knowledge Gaps and Research Priorities:**
  - a. Understudied species and habitats.
  - b. Understudied types of ORE technologies.
  - c. Gaps in understanding cumulative, indirect and long-term impacts.

**Delivery**

The main output will be a detailed report reviewing existing literature. In addition, we expect a lay-summary to be produced containing the key findings which can be easily communicated to stakeholders, policy-makers and the general public. The findings will be presented to the IEN team, particularly the ORE and Marine Biodiversity Project Team, as well as interested member groups.

This report will provide a review of our current state of knowledge; identify areas of priority for research on impacts of offshore renewable energy on the Irish environment; and set out a range of recommendations and actions moving forward.

***The consultant will be expected to:***

- Carry out desk-based research, using a range of information sources including academic, scientific and grey literature
- Consult with IEN and relevant member groups
- Consult with other stakeholders
- Produce clear well-written report which can be used to identify key knowledge gaps on the impacts of ORE development on marine biodiversity, in Ireland and the Northeast Atlantic
- Present findings to IEN members

**Criteria for Appointment**

**Essential Criteria for Applicants:**

- At least 2 years' experience delivering similar research projects
- Strong research, analytical and critical-thinking skills
- Specific experience in writing clear, well-structured reports
- Specific knowledge of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, particularly in Irish waters.

**Desirable**

- Familiarity with ORE technologies and their potential environmental impacts.
- Experience working with environmental NGOs or similar organizations.
- Knowledge of Ireland's marine and renewable energy policies.
- Experience with stakeholder engagement, particularly in marine or energy sectors.

Submissions will be evaluated in accordance with following criteria:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Value for Money	Your submission should include a detailed breakdown of costs; this must include the proposed number of days work, and the daily fee rates.	30%
Previous experience & understanding of brief	Evidence of skills/experience including brief portfolio of relevant work is required (At least 3 examples); information/CVs on who will be delivering the project	30%
Delivery methodology	Tenderers must describe the methodology they will use to carry out the project with specific reference to both the tasks and the processes and approach to be followed.	40%
Timeframe	Ability to complete work within the agreed timeframe	Pass/Fail

Failure to include all of the above may lead to disqualification.

### **Timeframe and Reporting**

The programme will run from February 2025 until May 2025, with the following milestones anticipated:

- Tender selection and signature of contract early February 2025
- Project Initiation – February 2025
- Agreed priority actions – Late February 2025
- Final report – May 2025

The project will be managed by the IEN ORE Project Coordinator with support from member organisations from the IEN.

The successful tenderer will be required to report regularly to the Project Coordinator.

### **Budget**

A maximum sum of €7,500 inc. VAT is available for this contract, which must include all other expenses including any travel, personal expenses, events or other engagements.

Tenderers should price accordingly to gain a competitive advantage.

Tenders received over this amount will not be considered.

### Proposal Submissions

All submissions must be submitted via email to [office@ien.ie](mailto:office@ien.ie) by noon on **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.**

Any queries should be submitted in writing by noon on **Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

***We are not bound to accept either the lowest or any of the quotes received.***

This project is funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications



Irish  
Environmental  
Network