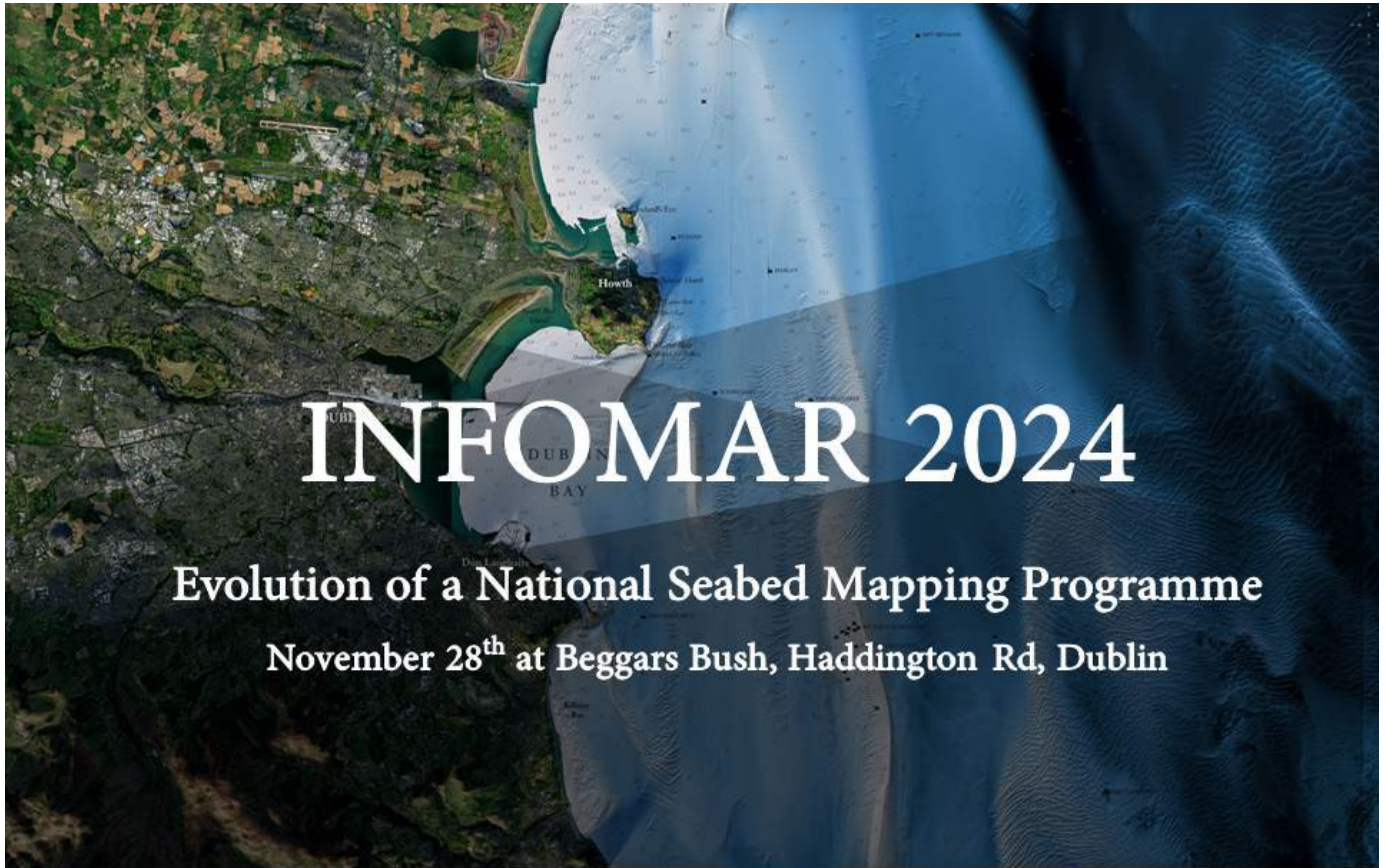


INFOMAR 2024

Evolution of a National Seabed Mapping Programme



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



INFOMAR
Integrated Mapping for the
Sustainable Development
of Ireland's Marine Resource



Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
Ireland | Éireann



Foras na Mara
Marine Institute

Join us for the INFOMAR 2024 conference on November 28th at Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin. This event will explore the evolution of Ireland's National Seabed Mapping Programme including operational updates and panel discussions on marine data. With almost two decades of groundbreaking work, INFOMAR has positioned Ireland as a global leader in seabed mapping and provided vital data to support sectors such as offshore renewable energy, fisheries management, marine spatial planning, and environmental monitoring. This year's conference will reflect on the programme's impact, its comprehensive data and the ongoing/future requirements for data and outputs to inform policy.

We invite policy makers, researchers, and industry experts to share insights and discuss their needs as we consider the future of marine data and mapping in Ireland. This is a valuable opportunity to examine how INFOMAR's extensive datasets have shaped various sectors and to explore the future requirements for managing Ireland's marine environment.

We look forward to your participation in what promises to be an engaging and insightful day of discussions.

Agenda

Overview: One day in person event in Beggars Bush, Haddington Rd, Dublin focused on progress, informing policy, data requirements and future path.

0930 Registration & Coffee

10:00 Welcome & Keynote

1. Welcome - Housekeeping, Context, & Keynote Intro (Koen Verbruggen, GSI)
2. Keynote - Ocean Knowledge 2030 (Niall McDonough, MI)

10:30 Seabed Mapping - Evolving Operational & Charting Activities

This session will provide an operational update on Irish and international seabed mapping activity and challenges.

1. INFOMAR progress, achievements and plans (Sean Cullen & Tommy Furey)
 2. MARA's role in seabed and habitat mapping - Oversight & Requirements (John Evans, MARA)
 3. Status update of nautical charting in Ireland (James Timmins, UKHO)
 4. Northern Ireland Seabed Mapping Approaches (Alex Callaway, AFBI)
 5. Seabed 2030. An evolving global seabed mapping initiative (Steve Hall, Seabed 2030)
- Q&A (15min)*

12:00 Lunch

13:30 Seabed Mapping - Data needs for monitoring, management and blue growth

This session will provide oversight of evolving sectoral requirements for marine and coastal data.

1. ORE Requirements (Aisling Greene, DECC)
 2. Ocean Sustainability & Informed Decision-Making through Data Management (Andrew Conway, MI)
 3. INFOMAR support for Ireland's Maritime Infrastructure (Declan Black, DoT)
 4. Monitoring Coastal Change (Jennifer Johnston, OPW)
 5. Ireland Shipwrecks (Karl Brady, UAU)
- Q&A (15min)*

15:00 Coffee

15:30 Ireland ongoing seabed mapping and monitoring requirements

Session Chair: DECC

This session will highlight the ongoing needs for seabed mapping, infrastructure, knowledge and advice in Ireland. The 2024 external "INFOMAR Programme Review and Foresight Assessment" progress will be outlined by way of introduction to the high-level panel discussion.

1. Deloitte Review & Foresight Assessment (Sean O'Brien, Deloitte)

15:45 Panel Discussion

Panel Chair: Corinna Brereton - Deloitte

Panel Members: Niall McDonough (MI), Koen Verbruggen (GSI), Rosemarie Lawlor (Met Eireann), Glenn Nolan (MI), Stephen Prendiville (Deloitte)

Topics / Questions

1. Round table introduction by panelists
2. *How critical is access to marine infrastructure, open data, and impartial scientific advice?*
3. *In the current global climate, how important are integrated mapping programmes in delivering societal needs?*
4. *What is the national and international importance of high-resolution seabed mapping for coastal and ocean risk and resource management?*
(e.g. coastal vulnerability, ecosystem services, marine planning, modelling, strategic research)
5. *In our changing marine environment, what would be the impact of discontinuing marine environmental and seabed mapping and monitoring?*

16:45 Closing remarks - INFOMAR

19:30 Networking event: Sit-down dinner LUIGI MALONES DUBLIN - Temple Bar from **19:30-20:00**