



INFOMAR Conference 2026 Agenda

6 and 7 October 2026 | University of Galway

TIME	PROGRAMME : DAY 1 Tuesday 6 October
09:00	Registration and Coffee
10:00	Welcome and Housekeeping - Sean Cullen (GSI) and Tommy Furey (MI) - Conference Scene Setting Rick Officer (CEO, MI)
10:15	INFOMAR Operations and Data Chair: Fergal McGrath This session will provide an operational update on INFOMAR activity and data outputs. - INFOMAR Extension Sean Cullen (GSI) - INFOMAR Operational Progress and Plans Kevin Sheehan (MI) and Eoin Mac Craith (GSI) - INFOMAR Communications: New Products and Outreach Highlights Felim O'Toole (GSI) - New INFOMAR Data Portal Launch Fabio Sacchetti (MI)
11:00	Coffee
11:30	Our Offshore Heritage and Habitat Chair: Charise McKeon This session will bring together research, practice and emerging technologies to enhance understanding of submerged cultural heritage and its environmental impacts. - Mapping the Past, Managing the Future: Exploring Where Shipwrecks, Marine Ecosystems and Human Impacts Converge Karl Brady and Connie Kelleher, NMS (DHLGH) - Investigations of Potentially Polluting Wrecks off Ireland Dominic Bush (UCC) - High-resolution Shipwreck Mapping: Examples from MY Roussalka 2026 Ruairi Strachan (UG Sub-Aqua Club) - Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in Ireland's Deep Waters Prof. Louise Allcock (University of Galway)
12:45	Lunch and Posters
13:45	Coastal Mapping: Research for Monitoring, Management and Policy Chair: Fabio Sacchetti This session explores how coastal observations, mapping and research provide the evidence needed to support climate adaptation, sustainable coastal management, coastal ecosystems, offshore renewable energy, heritage protection and informed decision-making from local communities to national policy. - Coastal Interface: Challenges and Opportunities Dr Eugene Farrell (University of Galway) - Mapping Northern Ireland's Coastal Zone with Airborne Bathymetric Lidar Charles de Jong (FIELD) - Marine Mapping for Offshore Renewable energy Dr Mark Coughlan (UCD) - First National Map of Ireland's Coastal Exposure to Erosion and Flooding Kevin Walsh (UCC)
15:00	Coffee and Posters

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15:30	Offshore Geomorphology and Bedrock Mapping Chair: Eoin MacCraith This session highlights the growing importance of offshore geomorphology and bedrock mapping in understanding past and modern seabed processes, informing marine spatial planning and supporting sustainable ocean management. - EEZ-Wide Geomorphology Classification of Ireland's Offshore Territory: Integrating High-Resolution Mapping and Machine Learning Within a New Classification Scheme Prof. Andy Wheeler (UCC) - Irish Sea and South Coast Bedrock Geology Map Revision Roxana Stanca (Venterra / GDG) - West Coast Inshore Bedrock Mapping Incorporating Machine Learning Dr Audrey Recouvreur (UCC) - Ireland's Offshore Glacial Landscape Prof. Sara Benetti (UU)
16:45	Education and Capacity Building Chair: Janine Guinan This session will showcase the long-term impact of the INFOMAR programme, highlighting how sustained investment in data, infrastructure and expert support has enabled research, innovation and capacity building across Ireland's marine sector. - INFOMAR's Education and Capacity Building to Address Current and Future Skills Needs in the Irish Maritime Sector Janine Guinan (Rós na Mara) - Career Progression Talks Ronan O'Toole (Greenlight Surveys); Octavia Zegrean (Dún Laoghaire Powerboat School); Tea Isler (Alfred Wegener Institute); Craig Ferguson (Marine Institute)
17:30	Closing Remarks - INFOMAR

TIME	PROGRAMME : DAY 2 Wednesday 7 October
09:00	Registration and Coffee
10:00	Welcome and Housekeeping - Sean Cullen (GSI) and Tommy Furey (MI) - Conference Scene Setting (DCEE)
10:15	INFOMAR Mapping, Research and Policy: Day One Review This overview will provide an update on INFOMAR status, extension and plans, recap key highlights and messages from day one, and open discussion on wider government marine data needs beyond INFOMAR completion in 2029. - INFOMAR: Past, Present and Future Thomas Furey (MI)
10:30	Mapping for Policy: Sectoral Perspectives Chair: Rick Officer This session will bring together stakeholders to explore how marine data, research and policy can support sustainable ocean management, economic development and environmental protection. It will highlight the contribution of INFOMAR and broader marine initiatives to climate action, fisheries, biodiversity and maritime infrastructure. - PIM 2040 Data for Policy and Society Eoin Leahy (DCEE) - Climate Action and Energy (ORE) Jo Coloe (DCEE)
11:00	Coffee
11:30	Mapping for Policy: Sectoral Perspectives Continued - Fisheries Maurice Clarke (MI) - Mapping for Healthy Seas: Informing Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Management Dr. Sorcha Ni Longphuirt (DCEE) - Transport and Infrastructure Declan Black (DoT)
12:30	Lunch

TIME	PROGRAMME : DAY 2 Wednesday 7 October
13:30	International Mapping Initiatives Chair: Koen Verbruggen / Thomas Furey This session will showcase regional and global approaches to seabed mapping, hydrography, marine spatial planning and ocean observation. - An update on Progress with Seabed 2030: The First Global Map of the Ocean Floor Steve Hall (Seabed 2030) - UK Civil Hydrography Programme and Centre for Seabed Mapping Andrew Colenut (UKHO) - Mapping Offshore Northern Ireland (MONI) Heidi Dias (AFBI)
14:30	Coffee
15:00	International Mapping Initiatives Continued - Mapping Barbados EEZ for Marine Spatial Planning Allison Wiggins / Leo Brewster (CZMU) - Filling the Knowledge Gaps: MAREANO's Integrated Approach to Seabed Mapping Lilja Run Bjarnadottir (NGU) / Pål Mortensen (IMR) - Marine Basemaps in the Norwegian Coastal Zone: Supporting Sustainable Management and Blue Economy Development Hanne Hodnesdal, Kartverket (Norwegian Mapping Authority)
16:00	Key Messages and Close Out