I refer to the consultation with statutory environmental authorities and the SEA scoping report published in August 2020.
There are a number of marine related plans, objectives and programmes that appear to be omitted from the draft. Below are some suggestions for correcting these omissions and for improving the overall consistency and coherence of the draft. If you would like more information on these or any clarification please contact me.
In particular:

- **Section 2.7 on page 12** refers to the plans and programmes and conservation objectives that have been considered and these are listed in Appendix A. **The list on page 12 of Appendix A** does not include Ireland's Marine Strategy under Article 5 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) as updated during the second cycle of the directive. Part 1 of this update was published in June 2020 and contains a new assessment of the status of the marine environment, a revised determination of good environmental status and revised environmental targets and, where relevant, threshold values for marine and transitional waters (Ireland's EEZ and the soil and subsoil of the extended continental shelf). Some of these environmental targets relate specifically to commercial fish and shellfish and to contaminants in seafood, while others relate to biodiversity, marine litter and seafloor integrity. See the links here:
  https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/2020_june_article_17_update_to_irelands_marine_strategy_part_1_articles_8_9_10_final.pdf
  https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/appendices_-_assessment_sheets_.pdf
- Similarly, the June 2020 Programme for Government makes a commitment to achieving specific levels of marine protection **(page 83 of the programme and reproduced below**). This consultation process has now commenced and this commitment **should be included with the other points listed on pages 17 and 18 of Appendix A**. This commitment is also cross cutting through the commitments under the national biodiversity action plan, UN SDG14, the OSPAR strategy for the northeast Atlantic and the UN Convention on biological diversity.

  Marine Protection Areas

  We support the principles and ambition of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and will develop comprehensive legislation for the identification, designation and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Irish territorial waters. We will realise our outstanding target of 10% under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive as soon as is practical and aim for 30% of marine protected areas by 2030. This will be done on the basis of scientific expertise and in close consultation with all stakeholders, in particular the fishing industry as well as environmental and community representatives. This consultation process will begin in the first 100 days of Government. We will examine the establishment of an offshore maritime area as Ireland's seventh national park. This would form part of the expanded MPA's and allow for a learning experience in the maritime environment.
- Finally, **Section 4.1, Table 4.1 (SEA Objective)** row 5 (Water – protect, enhance and manage water resources and flood risk) point c should be amended to reflect the

requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive – and mirror point b for freshwater.

Proposed new wording for point c: *Support the Marine Strategy Framework Directive achievement of good environmental status by protecting and improving* ~~Protect and improve~~ the quality of marine waters, particularly those involved in seafood growing and fishing.

Work on the MSFD marine strategy is carried out in cooperation with other departments and agencies (for commercial fish we work with DAFM (seafood division)) and it is supported by the Marine Institute. The objectives and environmental targets have been developed to align as much as possible with other policy frameworks.

Regards

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Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvíorais chun víorais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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