



Securing Our Own Energy Future

Project Update | April 2026





Welcome to the latest update for the North Irish Sea Array (NISA) Windfarm

The ambition for the project remains unchanged. As Ireland charts a course towards a sustainable and secure energy future, NISA plays a vital role in delivering on the government's renewable energy targets.

The project has the potential to power up to 500,000 Irish homes and businesses, stabilise our energy prices and deliver transformative change to communities through a community benefit fund of up to €4million per year.

Offshore wind is an essential component of Ireland's climate action plan. At current delivery rates, Ireland is forecast to achieve less than half of its 2030 climate targets, underscoring the urgency of accelerating implementation.

Our energy system remains highly exposed to geopolitical instability bringing huge spikes in energy costs and further uncertainty around the stability of our supply. This reinforces the need to accelerate our shift towards secure, domestically generated clean energy.

NISA has the potential to both strengthen the domestic energy supply and reduce our dependency on the international energy market.

The project milestones will be influenced by the planning process. Offshore construction is expected to start in 2030.

Key Activities:

September 2025

Taoiseach and Minister O'Brien announce establishment of Offshore Wind Energy Clearing House

In September 2025 the Taoiseach along with Minister O'Brien announced the establishment of the Offshore Wind Energy Clearing House.

The Clearing House will address identified obstacles to delivering offshore renewable energy.

It will support and reinforce the work of the existing Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce, especially where issues require an additional high-level intervention from the centre of Government.

To-date the group has met twice with topics including planning and consenting bottlenecks, and grid connection with representatives from NISA present at both meetings.

October 2025

NISA launches the Sustainable Fisheries Community

In October 2025 NISA announced the launch of the Sustainable Fisheries Community (SFC).

The SFC is a funding initiative focused on the protection and enhancement of a sustainable local fishing and marine environment in the waters around the proposed project area, focusing initially on coastal communities along the northeast coast of Ireland.

With funding of up to €1 million available in the initial 18 month pilot phase, the SFC offers a valuable opportunity to support the sustainable development of fishing communities through meaningful initiatives spanning research and data gathering, education, and sustainability.

The ambition is that it delivers long term wider industry benefits, establishing a benchmark for best practice for co-existence between Offshore Renewable Energy and the fishing community through a collaborative approach.

The initiative is being steered and influenced by a committee which includes members of the fishing community. With the opening of the fund, the wider fishing and seafood producing community are encouraged to get on board and shape the direction it takes from here and influence its ultimate success.

Find out more at

www.sustainablefisheriescommunity.ie

November 2025

NISA Development Director, Tina Raleigh presents to Joint Oireachtas Committee (JOC) on Climate, Environment and Energy

Tina Raleigh joined industry colleagues to present and discuss delivery challenges in the offshore wind sector. The session allowed NISA to present unique insights into the challenges the industry is facing, particularly across the consenting process.

There was unequivocal support for offshore wind right across the political spectrum and the opportunities it brings, and the committee voiced both frustration and ambition to seek resolution to see the projects progress.

Engagements such as these are critical to drive progress for NISA and the rest of the Phase 1 projects in Ireland.





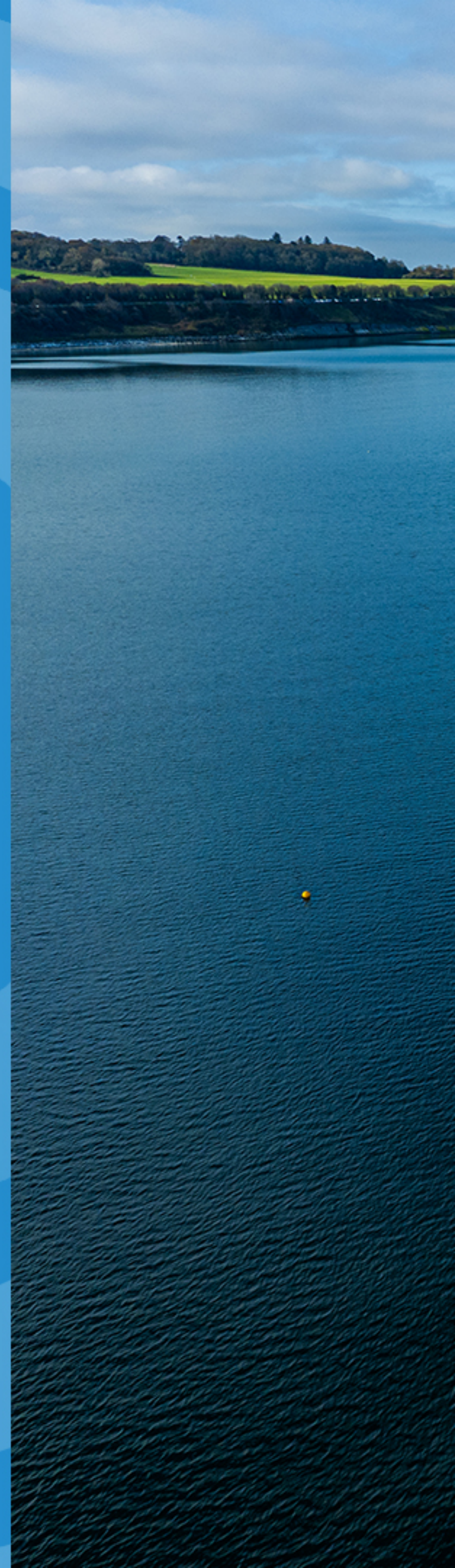
December 2025

**Accelerating Infrastructure
Action Plan Announced**

On 3 December, the Irish Government published the Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan, a comprehensive roadmap designed to tackle persistent barriers to infrastructure delivery across housing, energy, water, transport, and public services. This plan will also support the work of the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce and the Offshore Wind Clearing House which are driving the acceleration of Ireland's decarbonisation.

January 2026

Wind Energy Ireland launch their new five-year strategy *Delivering Energy Independence, Powering Growth*. The strategy is based on a set of strategic goals which sets out a clear and ambitious plan to transform Ireland into one of Europe's first true electrostates — a country powered by secure, affordable and home-grown clean electricity.





How NISA is progressing

The planning process

The project received a Request for Information (RFI) in April 2025 and resourcing was allocated to examine it – there was a lot of information requested, and the team moved quickly to respond. Critical to the project's development is engaging with all key stakeholders.

Given the significance of the RFI, the project requested more time to satisfy An Coimisiún Pleanála's (ACP) requirements. The proposed extension more accurately reflects the duration of activities required to support the RFI response.

ACP has granted the project an extension and NISA will endeavour to submit information in advance of this date in Q2 2026.

Project refinements

Following receipt of the RFI and subsequent stakeholder meetings, detailed consideration was given to understanding how a refined offshore design, within the confines of the offshore development boundary submitted to ACP in 2024 could further mitigate potential environmental effects from the proposed development.

The passage of time also enabled the project to invest in pioneering geophysical survey methodology to provide detailed ground conditions which informed those refinements. This achievement underscores NISA's commitment to innovation in site characterisation, efficient development processes, and environmental responsibility.

Key Refinements Offshore

- 1.** Removal of monopile foundations, which typically generate significant underwater noise during wind turbine foundation installation.
- 2.** Refinement of wind turbine foundation installation methodology to jackets with suction buckets, a low underwater noise foundation installation method successfully deployed on many wind farms.
- 3.** Refinement of wind turbine layouts for Project Options 1 and 2 within the confines of the offshore development boundary to address navigational safety concerns and reduce the spatial extent of infrastructure within the Northwest Irish Sea (NWIS) SPA.
- 4.** Removal of dredging from the project design, as excess material will not require to be removed from the seabed.

What does this mean in a practical sense

- Significantly reduced underwater noise during construction
- Improved search and rescue capabilities
- Increased distance from Rockabill
- Reduced density of turbines in the southeast area of the Maritime Area of Consent (MAC) where there is higher density of vessel traffic
- Reduction in 'spatial extent' of wind turbines within array area, reducing overlap with foraging grounds for bird species protected by the NWIS SPA

What hasn't changed

- Number of turbines across both project options
- Offshore Development Boundary, which includes array area and export cable corridor
- Tip height of turbines across both project options
- Onshore infrastructure

Key Refinements Onshore

Since submitting the application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in 2024, NISA has also advanced the design for the onshore cable route and prepared an indicative onshore construction phasing plan which seeks to mitigate against significant, temporary effects of the proposed cable route for communities in the area.

The indicative plan will be available to review as part of the RFI submission later this year.

Some of those mitigations include:

- Avoiding construction outside Corduff National School during term time.
- Undertaking sections along the Swords and Malahide Road outside of peak concert season unless otherwise agreed with Fingal County Council.
- Alleviating partial road closures by reducing single lane closure distances from c. 200-300 to 150-200m
- All single lane closures which include traffic light deployment will have a designed Traffic Management Engineer to monitor and regulate traffic flows at each traffic light head as required to further mitigate and prevent unnecessary tailbacks either side of the lane closure.



Continued Engagement

We recognise the role communities play in the success of these transformative projects. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about key developments, government actions, and progress on the ground, ensuring that you remain a valued partner in building a brighter, greener tomorrow. We invite your engagement and feedback as we work together to deliver on the potential of offshore wind for Ireland.

Please continue to engage with our community engagement team on enquiries@northirishseaarray.ie. The team is also available to meet in person or online to discuss any aspect of the NISA offshore wind energy project.

Community Liaison Team



Jim O'Reilly
Community
Liaison Officer



Lisa Enright
Community
Liaison Officer

Find out more about the project at
www.northirishseaarray.ie

