



Securing Our Own Energy Future

Project Update 2025



Project at a Glance



Design layout includes maximum of 49 turbines



Potential to create high-quality jobs



Off the coast of Dublin, Meath and Louth



Capacity to power approximately 500,000 Irish homes and businesses



CO₂ displacement - up to half a million tonnes per year



Community Benefit Fund of approximately €4 million per annum

North Irish Sea Array

The North Irish Sea Array is an offshore wind energy project being proposed off the coast of counties Dublin, Meath and Louth. The project brings with it an opportunity to help deliver clean renewable energy for the island of Ireland, to provide energy security and to bring Ireland closer to our climate action targets.



Why is NISA located where it is?

The NISA location couples an area with an excellent wind resource, with an area with a very high electricity demand.

The closest potential turbine location will be located approximately 13km from shore. Up to a quarter of the total array will be located between 20 and 25km out to sea.

The design process took many factors into consideration when selecting turbine locations within our Maritime Area Consent (MAC) including fishing patterns, ground conditions, wind resources, offshore biodiversity, offshore

archaeology and of course, water depth.

As you move out from shore Ireland's seabed depth increases very quickly, compared to the North Sea, for example, which is relatively shallow and gently sloping. Until the early 2030s all new offshore wind farms in Ireland will use fixed-bottom turbines in water depths generally less than 60 metres.

The ambition is that fixed-bottom turbines will pave the way for floating wind energy as they will build the port infrastructure, the supply-chain and the investor confidence needed to develop floating wind energy.



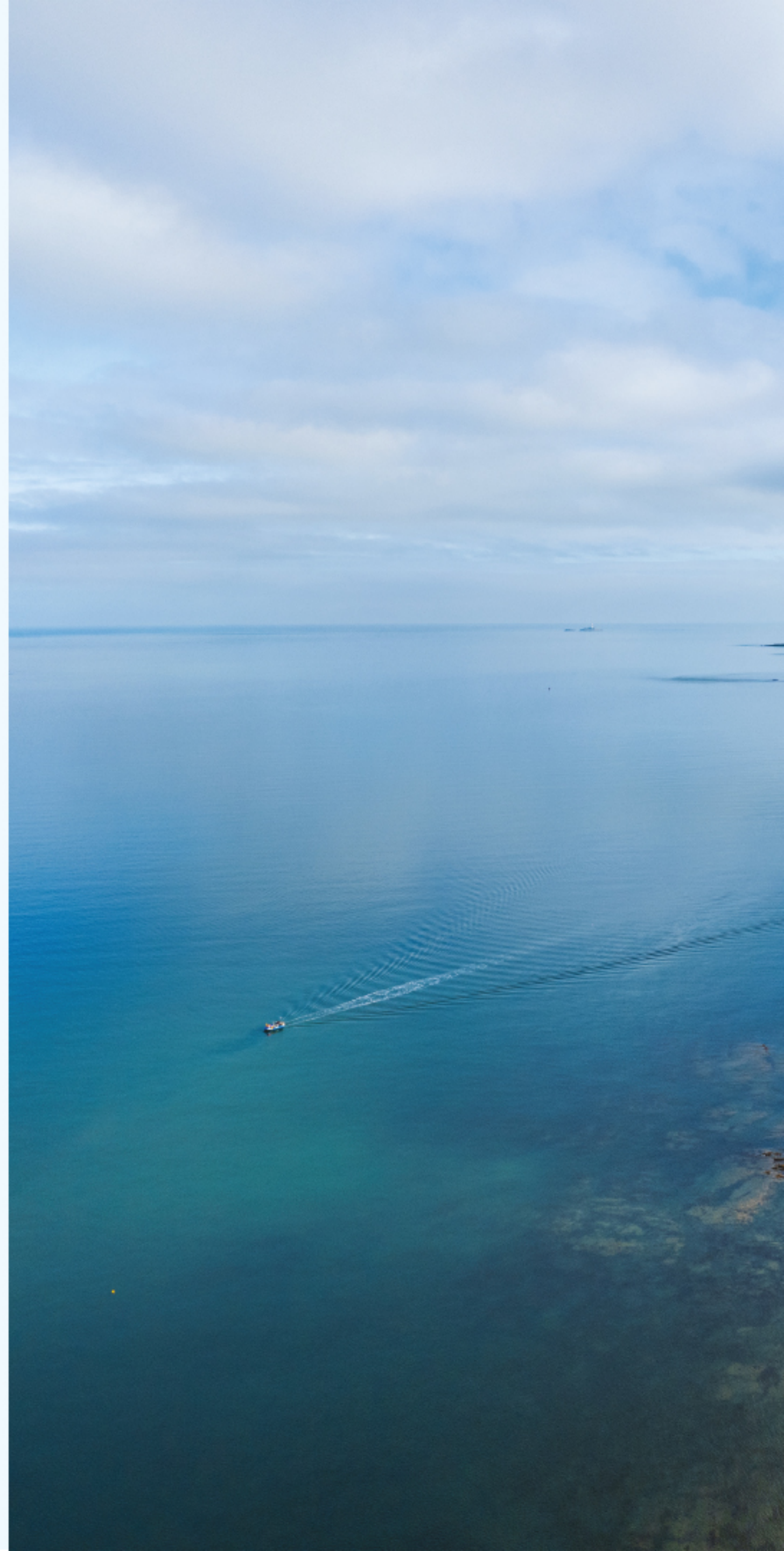
Milestones

2024 was an exciting year for NISA. Over the course of NISA's many public consultation events our team met with hundreds of members of the community to discuss the potential benefits of this development.

The NISA Geophysical Survey in September and October of 2024 represented the first time a survey of this kind was successfully undertaken anywhere in the world, and it was done in Irish waters. Geophysical surveys are necessary to understand the type of material present on the seabed (e.g. rocks, pebbles, sand/mud). In this instance, the process involved the use of sound energy to examine the composition of the seabed and ground conditions in precise detail without the need for any intrusive drilling or excavation.

Feedback from the local fishing industry influenced the timing and management approach to this survey. The project fisheries team engaged with the survey vessel crew, including an offshore vessel visit to ensure that local fishing practices were understood and considered as an integral part of this new surveying methodology. Briefing the crew with a full understanding of the local fisheries, along with employing an Onboard Fisheries Liaison Officer during the campaign, were key to ensuring that fisheries interactions were managed successfully.

And perhaps the most significant milestone, we also lodged our planning application with An Bord Pleanála in June. Within the 10,000+ pages submitted were the conclusions of years of technical survey work and assessments carried out both on and offshore. Every paragraph and every report that formed the application is a joined-up effort to ensure we can deliver the best project design for the area and for the communities it will serve. The window for observations closed in September of this year, however, the full application can still be viewed here: www.northirishsearraysid.ie.





Continued Engagement

Community Engagement

Engagement is not simply about providing information. We invite communities to continue to engage with us too. We value local knowledge and believe that everyone should have an opportunity to input how the project can be delivered.

While we await updates from An Bord Pleanála, we encourage anyone with feedback or a project query to continue to engage with our community engagement team on enquiries@northirishsearray.ie

The team is 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

Community Benefit Fund

Renewable energy projects can deliver many benefits that not only help our country and our local community, but also the wider world. It can help us reach our climate targets, direct investment to our local community and strengthen our economy.

A Community Benefit Fund could reach approximately €4million each year or €80 million over the lifetime of the project giving residents the opportunity to bring about transformative and positive change to their local community. These projects could span environmental initiatives, energy efficiency schemes and social and economic projects.

Since 2019, the project team has been engaging with local community groups on the process with a view to collecting information, feedback and submissions which could guide the direction of the Community Benefit Fund.

We encourage these conversations so that we are in a position to act quickly and appropriately when the Community Benefit Fund becomes available for NISA.

Engagement with the Fisheries

The fishing community is a key stakeholder in the development of the NISA project and has been from the outset. Engagement with the fishing community commenced in 2019, when only a concept layout was available.

We have been in ongoing contact with the fishing industry in relation to potential concerns and issues. This feedback has influenced how the project design evolved.

The turbine layout design process has taken into account issues such as turbine orientation, turbine spacing and array locations as they relate to existing fishing practices. We endeavoured to adapt our design and processes to allow NISA and the fishing community to successfully share the area of the sea being considered. Protecting the current positions of those making a living from the proposed wind farm area is a priority for us.

This proactive engagement is continuing and will remain for the lifetime of the project.

To contact your Fisheries Liaison Officer, please email flo@northirishseaarray.ie

Project Infrastructure

Delivering NISA in the most appropriate way has and always will be a priority for the team. The project infrastructure – both onshore and offshore – represents new infrastructure for the communities of Dublin, Meath and Louth.

A proposed underground cable route for the project goes from the north of Balbriggan to the grid connection point at Belcamp.

As per EirGrid specifications, the proposed route will follow local roads wide enough to minimise the need for closures, cross under the M1 and arrive at the grid connection point at Belcamp.

Belcamp is a facility on the national grid with optimum connectivity and capacity.

As well as the turbines and offshore substation, there will also be a grid facility located to the west of the road R132.

This is required not only to facilitate the transmission of the electricity from the wind farm to the connection point, but it will also strengthen the electricity grid in this area.

The total timeframe for construction would be approximately two years. Before any construction commences a full traffic management plan and an updated timeline will be prepared for discussion/consultation with the communities in the project area.

Timeline

We remain hopeful that we will have a planning decision for NISA in 2025 which will allow us to progress on the procurement and contracting requirements to deliver this project. The ambition is to begin construction in 2027 and to have the array fully operational by 2030.

NISA is a critical component to deliver on the Irish Government's ambition of 5GW of offshore renewable energy by 2030. Delivering offshore wind energy will drastically cut our CO2 emissions.

It will make Ireland more energy independent. It will attract several billion euro in investment into Ireland and create thousands of long-term and sustainable jobs, particularly in our coastal communities.

This is how we deliver the clean energy, the affordable energy and the secure energy that Irish families, communities and businesses want and which they deserve

We are committed to keeping all stakeholders informed through updated project brochures and our website.

The NISA partnership

In January 2023, Statkraft teamed up with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), a global leader in offshore wind energy projects. To deliver a project as significant as NISA, it is vital for Statkraft to partner with a company with a successful track record and expertise in offshore wind development.

CIP and its construction partners Copenhagen Offshore Partners (COP) have years of experience in financing and developing offshore wind projects around the world. This partnership complements Statkraft's development work, enabling the project to harness the power of offshore wind and deliver clean energy to Ireland's homes and businesses.

