

NMCI
National Maritime College of Ireland
Coláiste Náisiúnta Mara na hÉireann

SEAFARERS' CONFERENCE 2024 PROGRAMME

Sponsored by  Simply Blue Group

“REALISING IRELAND’S MARITIME AMBITION”

DATE & TIME

22nd February 2024: 9am – 5pm

EVENT HOSTS

National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI)

LOCATION & FORMAT

Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick

In-Person & Online

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

Simply Blue Group

ATTENDEES

Ireland’s Maritime Community

EVENT ORGANIZERS

Simply Blue Group & AVC Hire Ltd

REGISTRATION 8:15–8:45

CONTEXT UPDATE FROM SEAFARER CONFERENCE 2023

Capt. Brian FitzGerald: Simply Blue Group

9:00 – 9:05



MC:

Fergal Keane: Journalist and Broadcaster, Sailor and Specialist in Media & Marine



WELCOME ADDRESS

9:05–9:15

Professor Maggie Cusack: President of Munster Technological University



OPENING ADDRESS

9:15–9:30

Simon Coveney: T.D. Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment

SEAFARERS' CONFERENCE 2024

PANEL #1

ENABLING IRELAND'S OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY AMBITION

9:30 – 10:45am



CHAIR:

Capt. Brian Fitzgerald: Simply Blue Group

SPEAKERS:



ROBERT MCGUINNESS
Director of the Offshore
Wind Delivery Taskforce
DECC



MICHAEL MAHON
Chief Infrastructure
Officer, EirGrid



LIZ GOFF
Chair of the South
East Regional Inshore
Fisheries Forum



LEO BERTELS
Managing Consultant
BVG Associates



NOEL CUNNIFFE
CEO, Wind Energy
Ireland

PANEL INTRODUCTION: 9:30 – 9:35

IRELAND'S PLAN LED APPROACH TO OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT

9:35 – 9:40

Robert McGuinness: Director of the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce: Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)

'TAKING THE GRID OFFSHORE' – ENABLING IRELAND'S OFFSHORE WIND AMBITION

9:40 – 9:45

Michael Mahon: Chief Infrastructure Officer, EirGrid

CO-EXISTENCE OF OFFSHORE WIND WITH THE FISHING INDUSTRY – THE INSHORE FISHERIES PERSPECTIVE

9:45 – 9:50

Liz Goff: Chair of the South East Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (SERIFF)

SKILLS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE IRISH OFFSHORE WIND INDUSTRY

9:50 – 9:55

Leo Bertels: Managing Consultant BVG Associates

REALISING IRELAND'S OFFSHORE WIND AMBITION – THE INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

9:55 – 10:00

Noel Cunniffe: CEO of Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)

PANEL DISCUSSION: 10:00 – 10:45

Chair: Capt. Brian FitzGerald: Simply Blue Group

TEA/COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

10:45 – 11:30am

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PANEL #2

ENABLING IRELAND'S FISHING INDUSTRY AMBITION

11:30 – 12:45pm

SPEAKERS:



CHAIR:

Commander Roberta O' Brien: Associate Head of College, National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI)



CAROLINE BOCQUEL

CEO: Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)



AODH O' DOMHNAILL

CEO, Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO)



RONI HAWE

Principal Officer Sea Fisheries Administration Division, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM)



DR. EDEL O' CONNOR

Business Development Manager - Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO).



HELENA QUILTY

Principal Officer responsible for the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind, (DETE)

PANEL INTRODUCTION: 11:30 – 11:35

BIM'S ROLE IN HELPING THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES

11:35 – 11:40

Caroline Bocquel: CEO of Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

THE LIVED EXPERIENCE – WHAT THE FISHING INDUSTRY NEEDS TO ENABLE ITS AMBITION

11:40 – 11:45

Aodh O' Domhnaill: CEO of Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO)

THE POLICY CONTEXT FOR IRELAND'S FISHING INDUSTRY AMBITION

11:45 – 11:50

Roni Hawe: Principal Officer Sea Fisheries Administration Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

IRELAND'S MARITIME DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL – TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND OUR PORTS

11:50 – 11:55

Dr. Edel O'Connor: Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO)

ENABLEMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND THROUGH THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

11:55 – 12:00

Helena Quilty: Principal Officer responsible for the National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)

PANEL DISCUSSION: 12:00 – 12:45

Chair: Commander Roberta O' Brien: Associate Head of College, NMCI

LUNCH

12:45 – 2:00pm

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PANEL #3

THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF MEETING MARITIME AMBITION

2:00 - 3:15pm



CHAIR:

Dr. Paul Hegarty: Head of College,
National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI)

SPEAKERS:



CAPT. KUBA SZYMAŃSKI

Secretary General of the
International Ship
Managers Association.



MIKE COHEN

CEO, UK National
Federation of Fishermen's
Organisations



RYANNE BURGES

Director of Offshore and
Ireland at Électricité de
France (EDF) Renewables UK
and Ireland.



MARIANA BATISTA

Senior Advisor for Education
and Skills - Wind Europe

PANEL INTRODUCTION: 2:00 - 2:05

KEY ISSUES AND EMERGING TRENDS IN MARITIME EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2:05 - 2:15

Captain Kuba Szymanski: Secretary General of the International Ship Managers Association

ENABLING COEXISTENCE BETWEEN FISHERIES AND OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT

2:15 - 2:25

Mike Cohen: CEO, UK National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations

DELIVERING OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS - SUSTAINABILITY FOR ALL

2:25 - 2:35

Rianne Burges: Director of Offshore and Ireland at EDF Renewables UK and Ireland

ADDRESSING SKILLS SHORTAGE TO ACHIEVE IRELAND'S MARITIME AMBITIONS: EUROPEAN TRENDS & TRAINING

2:35 - 2:45

Mariana Batista: Senior Advisor for Education and Skills - Wind Europe

PANEL DISCUSSION: 2:45 - 3:15

Chair: Dr. Paul Hegarty, Head of College, National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI)

TEA/COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

3:15 - 3:45pm

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CAN WE DO IT? WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE IN 2034?

PANEL #4

3:45 – 5:00pm



CHAIR:

Peter Coyle: Chair Marine Renewables Industry Association (MRIA)

SPEAKERS:



BRIAN HOGAN
Chief Surveyor, Marine Survey Office



PADRAIC FOGARTY
Ecologist and Biodiversity Advocate



ROBERT MCCABE
Chair Seafood/ORE Working Group



BARRY O' SULLIVAN
Chair of Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce (SEET)



LAURA BRIEN
CEO, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)

PANEL INTRODUCTION: 3:45 – 3:50

Can We Do It? What Does Success Look Like in 2034?

PANEL DISCUSSION: 3:50 – 4:45

Chair: Peter Coyle: Chair Marine Renewables Industry Association



SUMMARY AND CLOSING REMARKS: 4:45 – 4:55

Niall Collins: T.D. Minister of State for Skills and Further Education at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)



FAIRWELL & THANK YOU: 4:55 – 5:00

Dr. Paul Hegarty: Head of College, National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI)

DRINKS RECEPTION - CASTLETROY PARK HOTEL: 5:00 – 6:00



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*“REALISING IRELAND’S
MARITIME AMBITION”*

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