





THEME:

Environment—Manage Marine Protected Areas & Species

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

€5,989,216.11

MATCH FUNDERs:

Dept of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs NI and The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

LEAD PARTNER:

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)

PROJECT PARTNERS:

BirdWatch Ireland; Marine Scotland Science (MSS); Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Ulster University; and University College Cork

Start Date: 01/01/2018 **End Date:** 30/09/2022





@MarPAMM_project

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring Project (MarPAMM)

MarPAMM brings together 46 experts and a host of stakeholders from across Northern Ireland, western Sctoland and the Border Region of Ireland to develop tools for managing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in cross-border areas, doing so at a regional, rather than individual MPA level.

Information will be gathered on protected species and habitats to help build habitat maps and four new computer models. These models will predict the wider and future distribution, abundance and movements of a range of species and habitats.

Working closely with stakeholders and INTERREG VA sister projects 'COMPASS' and 'SeaMonitor' the project will also develop six MPA management plans. The MPA management plans will aim to meet the needs of both nature and communities.

"The MarPAMM project is very timely: until recently the focus for marine protected areas was on identifying sites and species of conservation value. Now we need to find out how best to manage the established network of sites so we deliver both conservation and wider societal benefits. MarPAMM helps us improve the evidence for why these sites are valuable and which pressures we need to manage. It also develops new approaches to engaging with local communities to ensure their voices are heard. MarPAMM is an exciting project, providing us with great opportunities to develop best practice."

Scottish Government Spokesperson



Gannets plunging into the sea to feed on a shoal of mackerel (Picture: Richard Shucksmith)







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MarPAMM is building the following four computer models:

- A regional seabird model
- A regional model of protected seabed-dwelling species and habitats
- A seal foraging and underwater noise model
- A coastal processes model

The project works across the following six areas:

- Argyll region
- Outer Hebrides region
- Murlough Special Area of Conservation
- Carlingford Lough Special Protection Areas (cross-border)
- Co Down Co Lough region (cross-border)
- North Coast Ireland North Channel region (cross-border)

"The MarPAMM project has enriched my PhD experience with an amazing network of dedicated and like-minded marine scientists who are interested in finding answers to similar questions as me. This makes me believe that scientific never exists in isolation. "

Robert Runya— MarPAMM PhD student



A team of MarPAMM scientists on expedition to improve habitat mapping by using the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle 'Freya'.