



THEME:

Environment: Manage Marine Protected Areas and Species

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€4,722,671.31

MATCH FUNDING:

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

LEAD PARTNER:


Loughs Agency

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Marine Institute, Queens University Belfast, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), University of Glasgow, University of Cork College, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ocean Tracking Network — Dalhousie University, University of California Davis

Start Date: 25/07/2017

End Date: 31/03/2023

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 @SeaMonitor1

 Loughs Agency

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: SeaMonitor

SeaMonitor is a unique marine research project, studying the seas around Ireland, Western Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The project aims to address three Programme Output Indicators and deliver the INTERREG VA objective of developing cross-border capacity for the monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species.

It will deliver Europe's largest telemetric marine array and spatial models supporting the conservation of basking shark, cetaceans, salmon, seals and skate. It will also provide three Management Plans; one for skate in the area from Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura and two for salmon in both the River Foyle and Clyde estuaries.

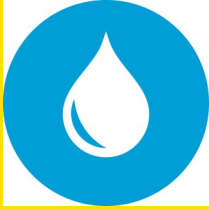
It has been jointly developed by all the partners and will be jointly implemented with partners working together across a range of activities. Working relationships will be further strengthened with existing projects such as COMPASS, MarPAMM, Catchment CARE, and SWELL.

"The threat to our marine ecosystems has never been greater and the need to work in partnership to better understand and manage these areas never higher. We are really excited to be leading the way alongside expert colleagues from statutory and academic institutions and a range of stakeholders that will ultimately produce dynamic management plans for some of our most important and vulnerable species."

Sharon McMahon, CEO, Loughs Agency



The project will develop activities for the monitoring and management of protected areas and species.



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The SeaMonitor project will deliver five models, inform three Management Plans and extend the COMPASS network of buoys from the east coast of the island of Ireland to the north establishing a physical connection of acoustic receivers between the island of Ireland and Scotland.

The enhanced monitoring capability will provide extended geographical cover on an important route for monitoring of a number of migratory species. This project has a partnership of nine comprising of funded partners located in Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, and non-funded partners located in Canada and the US. It should be noted that the Canadian and US partners are not allocated any funding but bring additional expertise to the project.

Key Projects Outputs :

Models developed to support conservation of habitats and species: 5

Marine management plans for designated protected areas complete: 3

Number of employment and higher education opportunities created: 25

Main array across the North Channel: 35 nautical miles long with over 100 acoustic receivers



Local broadcaster, Joe Mahon, helps launch the SeaMonitor Project with project partners in April 2019.