

## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

### Project Case Study: Collaborative Oceanography and Monitoring for Protected Areas and Species (COMPASS)

#### THEME:

Environment: Manage Marine Protected Areas & Species

#### FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH:

€6,289,181.25

#### MATCH FUNDING:

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

#### LEAD PARTNER:

The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)

#### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Marine Scotland Science, Marine Institute, Scottish Association for Marine Science, Inland Fisheries Ireland

**Start Date:** 01/01/2017

**End Date:** 31/03/2022

#### PROJECT CONTACT:

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 [compass-oceanscience.eu/](http://compass-oceanscience.eu/)

 [@Compass\\_MPA](https://twitter.com/Compass_MPA)

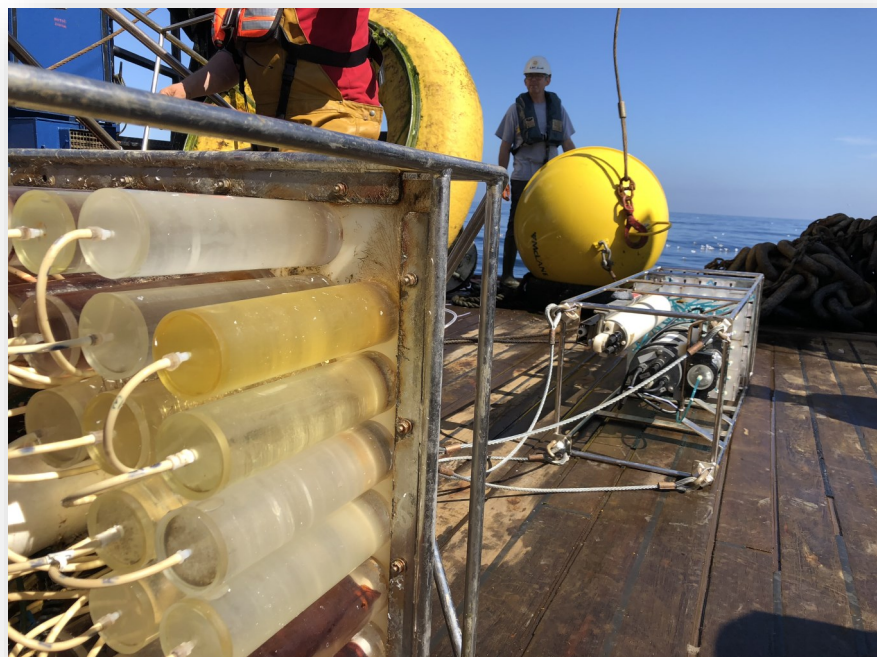
 [Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute](https://www.linkedin.com/company/agri-food-and-biosciences-institute/)

 [Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

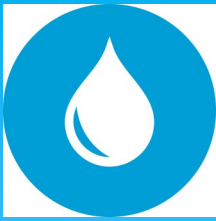
The COMPASS project will deliver the first fully coherent network of monitoring buoys across the regional seas of Ireland, Northern Ireland and West Scotland. Integrating the longest continuously maintained oceanographic monitoring stations in Europe within a network of new buoys equipped with oceanographic sensors, acoustic recorders and advanced fish tracking technology, this exciting and innovative project will build cross-border capacity for effective monitoring and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

*“Marine ecosystems are experiencing an unprecedented loss of biodiversity and species due to large-scale and far reaching effects of human activities. While Marine Protected Areas are geographically isolated the marine environment is mobile, dynamic and does not recognise borders, and the management of these areas needs to be undertaken on more regional and global scales. The COMPASS project is a partnership between the key government and marine research institutes in Ireland, Northern and Scotland that is delivering regional scale information to support the management of our marine environment”.*

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Application of acoustic and oceanographic moorings



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**COMPASS will develop long-term monitoring strategies for highly mobile protected species such as marine mammals and salmonids, and provide essential infrastructure for baseline oceanographic and ambient noise monitoring. The development of observational and data management capacity across the region will be complemented by the delivery of three truly regional scale environmental models, designed to support the management of a cross-border MPA network.**

*“COMPASS creates the first coherent network of marine environmental monitoring buoys in the region. Integrating the longest continuously maintained oceanographic moorings in Europe, the network will also have new moorings equipped with oceanographic and climate change sensors, marine mammal acoustic recorders and fish tracking technology.”*

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#### Project Key Outputs:

- **Network of buoys for regional seas, including telemetry and oceanographic monitoring (e.g. for seals, cetaceans and salmonids): 1**
- **Models developed to support conservation of habitats and species: 3**



Measuring a salmon smolt for tagging