



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, Local Government and Heritage

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: 30/09/2022



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Network of Buoys Update

One of the main objectives of COMPASS is to create a Network of Buoys for the regional seas of Northern Ireland, Ireland and Western Scotland. The network includes telemetered oceanographic buoys which observe and relay data on over 15 key environmental parameters, forming part of the platform for monitoring environmental quality and change. The oceanographic and meteorological observations support management, modelling, research and other operational activities such as weather forecasting. The data will be federated and made available to all project partners as well as a wider audience to support the management of marine protected areas and our marine resources.

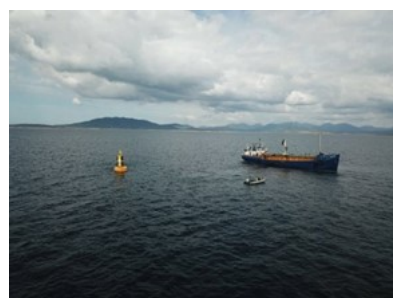


Map showing the network of monitoring buoys

Legacy of Buoy Network

New technologies to assess emerging pressures such as ocean acidification have been integrated, and the broader benefits to the network have contributed new and improved capacity to:

- Northern Ireland's long term marine monitoring programme
- Scottish Coastal Observation programme
- The Irish marine monitoring network and Met Éireann observations



Macehead buoy



Loch Ewe buoy