

DUBLIN BAY TASK FORCE

Report to Minister John Gormley, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

The following is an up-to-date report synopsising the work of the Dublin Bay Task Force in the last year since its establishment in May 2008. The report further makes recommendations for future action on the sustainable development of Dublin Bay. This report is endorsed by the all members of the Task Force together with those interested groups and individuals who took part in the public consultation process.

1. Introduction

The Dublin Bay Task Force, which was established in May 2008, agreed a programme of activities having regard to the terms set out by the Minister. This programme included –

- Discussion on recent and ongoing major projects in and around the Bay area
- The preparation of draft Terms of Reference for a Master Plan Study
- Recommendations for institutional arrangements for Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Recommendations for Dublin Bay boundary jurisdiction
- Recommendations for implementation of findings.

2. Public consultation

The Task Force undertook wide public consultation including inviting written submissions and hosting a public meeting and a public information seminar.

3. Master Plan for Dublin Bay

The terms of reference for a draft Master Plan for Dublin Bay was prepared by the Task Force in October, 2008. Based on the Minister's terms, the draft document proposed the following actions:-

1. Create a vision for Dublin Bay that improves the quality of life for the citizens of Dublin reflecting the views of the Bay's stakeholders.
2. Define what is environmentally sustainable in Dublin Bay having regard to national implementation of relevant EU Environment Directives.
3. Identify the impacts of current predicted climate patterns including global warming.
4. Make recommendations regarding land use, amenities, transport and site designations.
5. Provide guidance to the planning authorities on the type, scale and form of development which will be acceptable in defined locations around the Bay.
6. Enable developments to proceed efficiently by clarifying issues and identifying requirements for coordination and consultation.
7. Assist the public in understanding the future character of Dublin Bay, and its unique aspects.
8. Set out how a balance might be struck between public and private investments.

4. Strategic Objectives set by Dublin Bay Task Force

Taking on board the Master Plan ToR and the conclusions of the seminar on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), the Task Force members further drew-up the following strategic objectives for Dublin Bay:-

- To provide a framework for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management of Dublin Bay.
- Develop decision-making and planning models/frameworks for coastal communities in keeping with the principles of ICZM
- To identify an adaptive working geographical extent for the Bay to progress the work of the DBTF in keeping with the principles of ICZM.
- To collate baseline data, establish a set of Guidelines for the sustainable development of the Bay and set up a continual monitoring system
- To ensure a balanced assessment of the economic, social and environmental issues concerning Dublin Bay
- Identify new opportunities for enhancing Dublin Bay as a resource for all its stakeholders.
- To take account of all policies from EU to local level impacting on issues relating to the Bay
- To fully identify the important infrastructural and other contributions that Dublin Port makes to the regional and national economies
- To establish the implications for climate change on the bay area
- To have regard to the cost effectiveness of proposed actions and deliverables
- To assess whether Dublin Bay be given the status of an National Park
- Above all to ensure that Dublin Bay is protected and developed in a sustainable manner for the generations to come.

5. Recommendations for institutional arrangements for ICZM and legislative change

The structure as set out below is recommended by the members of the Task Force. This structure will provide the Dublin Bay area with a democratic, fully inclusive structure which provides the Task Force with a mechanism for inputting its policy recommendations into the statutory regional and local planning systems.

This structure is the ideal mechanism for engaging all interests around the Bay, providing formal recognition of the issues affecting the Bay and providing the legislative back-up necessary to implement the Dublin Bay Master Plan, when finalised. The process involves a series of constituent elements, namely:

- a) The issues to be investigated and developed will be agreed at a meeting of the Task Force
- b) A designated Dublin Bay Officer and assisting Researcher (both with appropriate knowledge and expertise in terrestrial/marine planning) will be appointed to provide core and supplementary technical support and report writing expertise
- c) Technical Working Groups will be set-up on thematic/geographic basis to develop position papers
- d) Draft position papers, when prepared, will be put before the Task Force and the Advisory Council for further development.
- e) The Task Force will ultimately decide the final version of all policies to be put to the Dublin Regional Authority for adoption.

- f) The final report, as adopted by the Dublin Regional Authority will be sent to the Regional Planning Guidelines officer for inclusion in the Review process of the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 for the Greater Dublin Area.
- g) When adopted by the Regional Planning Guidelines, implementation of the Dublin Bay policies will form part of the City and County Development Plans.

Benefits of Structure

The structure provides the Dublin Bay Task Force with a mechanism for ensuring overall co-ordination between the many authorities, State agencies and organisations whose remit includes the Dublin Bay area. It further provides a mechanism for monitoring the future development of Dublin Bay to ensure it is being developed to its full potential, as both an asset of, and amenity for, the people of Dublin and visitors to the Capital. Ultimately, the structure offers a democratic mandate to the planning of Dublin Bay and facilitates the future integration of terrestrial and marine planning through the Regional Planning Guidelines Review.

Simplicity of Approach

The Task Force propose to address the strategic issues of Dublin Bay from both thematic and geographic perspectives and to draw on the expertise available from within the organisations represented on the Task Force. This method of operating will provide the Task Force with the ability to address key strategic issues and to develop policy approaches which will have regard to local/organisational plans and programmes. It will further enable the development of a Master Plan for Dublin Bay at very little cost to the Irish tax-payer.

Stakeholder engagement

It is critical to the long term success of the Dublin Bay Master Plan that public consultation is fully engaged in. This intrinsic and necessary process will include public meetings, workshops and other events.

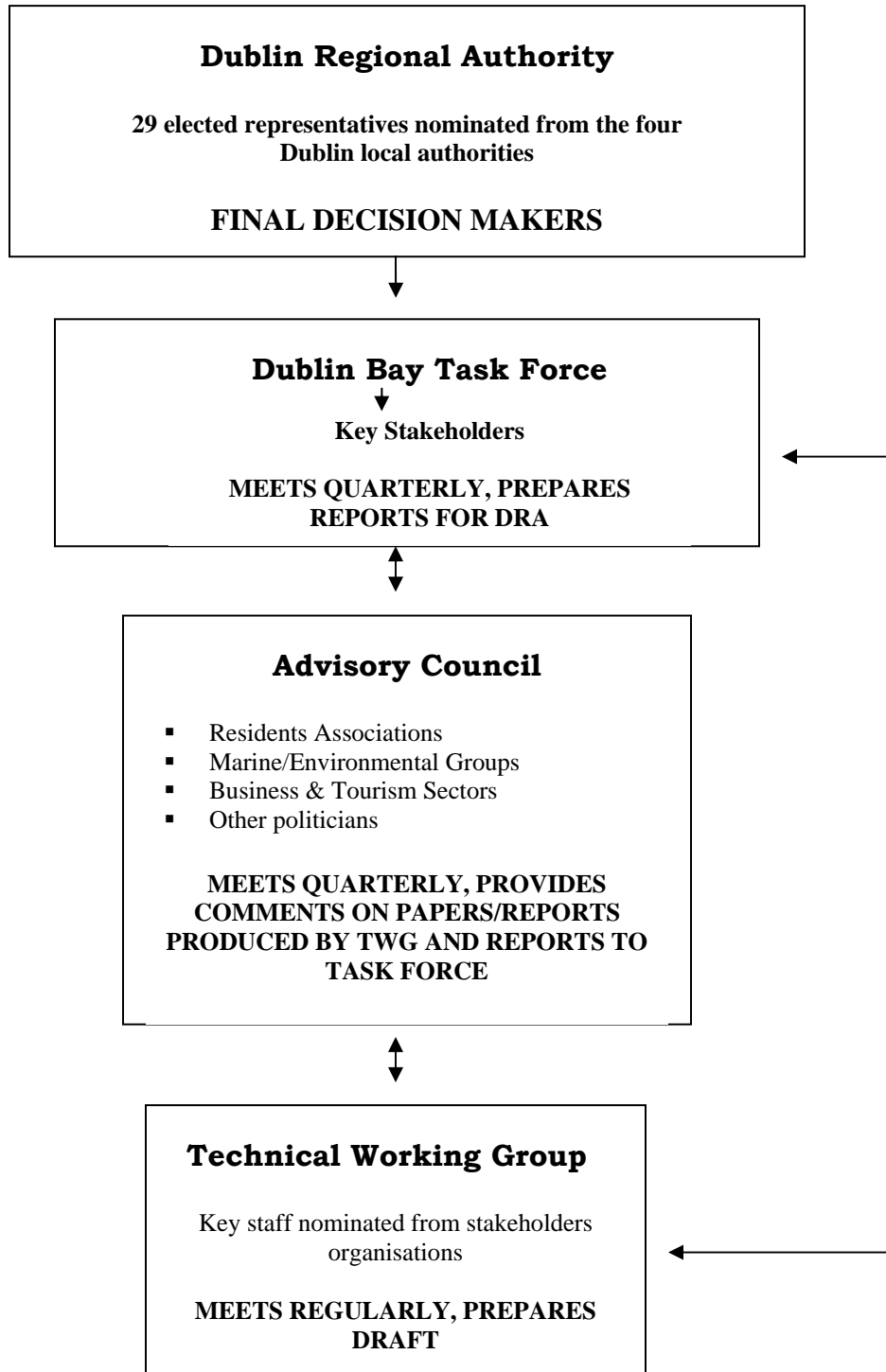
Combined, these elements will better ensure: a) coherence between and within the structure as outlined herein; b) consensus building; c) public involvement; d) reinforcement of feedback mechanisms; and, e) provision of technical reports to be disseminated amongst the taskforce.

Communications

A dedicated website will be set up to disseminate all documents and report from workshops, meetings etc.

INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT OF DUBLIN BAY

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS



This structure will be serviced by the Dublin Regional Authority through a dedicated **Dublin Bay Officer** (with appropriate experience/expertise) and assisting **Researcher**

6. Recommendations for boundary jurisdiction

Dublin Bay Boundary Definition

Nationally and regionally the coastal zone contains important resources that provide economic, recreational, aesthetic and conservation benefits to local communities. Past estimates of coastal demographics have depended on the definition of the coastal zone, although it has been considered to include people living within 10km from the sea. The NSS has defined it as rural districts, urban districts and boroughs adjacent to the coast. For the purposes of Dublin Bay a tighter boundary definition was required to create a realistic and workable plan area. To this effect, community linkages & gravitations, ecological linkages (Natura 2000 areas) and administrative boundaries were all considered in boundary delineation.

Ecologically, there is need to recognise inherent biogeochemical cycles and thus linkages between freshwater river basin catchments, groundwater and coastal waters. The DBTF in preparing any future documentation will be cognisant of these linkages and wider boundaries based on river basin catchments. It does not, however, wish to duplicate existing work, proposed work, and/or monitoring programmes.

Boundaries and sea level change

Given the difficulty in accurately predicting (relative) sea level change as caused by global climate change the rise in level could vary from 5-46 cm over the next 20 years. Adaptability to change will form the core of coastal defense initiatives and an ethos for coastal communities. Isotopic evidence and geographical shoreline evidence from the last interglacial period places sea levels around 2 to 5 metres higher, respectively, than present day levels.

Rising sea levels if not controlled will result in inundation of estuaries such as Malahide, bays such as Dublin Bay and behind coastal barriers such as between Wicklow and Bannow. The softer nature of the east coast makes it relatively more susceptible to erosion from increased wave energies from more severe storm surges when or if they do occur. There is evidence that it is these events which have the capability of leading to more permanent flooding occurrences.

The issue of drainage and groundwater capacities is easily overlooked. In predicting future flooding events there is just cause to seek and be advised by, whenever and wherever available, data relating to drainage capacities and groundwater hydrodynamics. Increases in winter river flows in the coastal zones will have additional stress to the overall system.

In consideration of these issues and the multitude of possibilities with regard to future scenarios it was decided not to use predictive flooding modeling to delineate or assist in delineating the boundary but to ensure that future master planning of Dublin Bay would be cognisant of potential adverse affects and the need to mitigate using best scientific and/or engineering advice and experience.

Dublin Bay Boundary

Land Side Delineation

It was agreed that there should be an inner core (Zone 1) and outer area (Zone 2) on the land side of the Bay. The criteria used to decide on the land boundary includes:-

- Physical factors and administrative boundaries.
- Socio-economic factors and environmental areas.
- Bay area activities and gravitations.

Inner Core

The inner core will include the electoral divisions (EDs) immediately adjacent to the coast and extending at all points at least 500 metres inland from the high tide line (HTL), from Portmarnock & Howth to Dalkey¹. Where an ED at any point does not extend beyond 500 metres inland from the HTL EDs adjacent to that coastal ED are affixed. The inner core will also include all other EDs where Natura 2000 areas extend across ED boundaries. This will ensure that administrative boundaries encapsulate entire Natura 2000 areas and maintain the ecological viability of the land side boundary.

The inner core also includes the estuarine waters of the Liffey and Tolka which extend inland beyond administrative boundaries (see Map 1, blue lines).

Inner Core EDs

ED_ID	ED NAME
2037	Clontarf East A
2038	Clontarf East B
2039	Clontarf East C
2040	Clontarf East D
2044	Clontarf West C
2045	Clontarf West D
2076	North Dock A
2077	North Dock B
2078	North Dock C
2085	Raheny - Foxfield
2086	Raheny - Greendale
2087	Raheny - St. Assam
2117	Mansion House A
2125	Pembroke East A
2126	Pembroke East B
2127	Pembroke East C
2128	Pembroke East D
2129	Pembroke East E
2130	Pembroke West A
2147	South Dock
4004	Baldoyle
4024	Howth
4032	Portmarnock South
4035	Sutton
5008	Blackrock - Booterstown
5010	Blackrock - Central
5011	Blackrock - Glenomena

¹ Note: territorial waters extend 12 nautical miles.

ED_ID	ED NAME
5012	Blackrock - Monkstown
5014	Blackrock - Seapoint
5016	Blackrock - Templehill
5017	Blackrock - Williamstown
5033	Dalkey - Bullock
5034	Dalkey - Coliemore
5035	Dalkey Hill
5042	Dun Laoghaire - East Central
5043	Dun Laoghaire - Glasthule
5050	Dun Laoghaire - Sandycove
5051	Dun Laoghaire - Salthill
5052	Dun Laoghaire - West Central
5058	Killiney North

Table 1: Electoral Divisions to be included as part of Dublin Bay Inner Core

Outer Area EDs

The outer area will include EDs adjacent to inner core EDs, within physical boundaries such as the DART line and/or forming part of a wider community. The outer area also includes all EDs adjacent to the River Liffey but within the Royal and Grand Canals around the point of the lower estuarine transitional waters at Talbot Memorial Bridge to the point of the upper transitional waters above Heuston Station (See Map 2). Similarly, the EDs immediately adjacent to the transitional waters of the Tolka, as they extend as far as Distillery Road in Drumcondra are also included in the outer zone (see Map 2). The x,y coordinates for the lower and upper transitional water points on the Liffey are 316483.7532, 234461.5149 and 312114.0662, 234205.6523 respectively. The x,y coordinates for the upper limit of transitional waters in the Tolka estuary are 316636.8539, 23419.0068.

The outer area also includes areas which were considered through the consultation process of the taskforce to have community linkages to and or strong community gravitation towards the Bay. The taskforce is cognisant that residents in Bray and as far as Greystones utilise Dublin Bay as a recreational amenity on a regular basis. However, to extend the boundary this far south would potentially dilute the spatial robustness of the existing boundary, impinge on another regional area & section of the coast and furthermore could not be justified on the basis of maintaining the integrity of Natura 2000 areas (as per North Dublin Bay Area). Nonetheless, future planning should be aware of the socio-economic gravitations from the aforementioned areas towards Dublin Bay.

Outer Area EDs

ED_ID	ED Name	ED_ID	ED Name
2001	Arran Quay A	2089	Rotunda B
2002	Arran Quay B	2109	Kilmainham B
2003	Arran Quay C	2110	Kilmainham C
2004	Arran Quay D	2118	Mansion House B
2005	Arran Quay E	2119	Merchants Quay A
2009	Ballybough A	2120	Merchants Quay B
2010	Ballybough B	2121	Merchants Quay C
2030	Cabra East A	2122	Merchants Quay D
2031	Cabra East B	2123	Merchants Quay E
2032	Cabra East C	2124	Merchants Quay F
2034	Cabra West B	2144	Royal Exchange A
2035	Cabra West C	2145	Royal Exchange B
2036	Cabra West D	2146	St. Kevin's
2041	Clontarf East E	2152	Ushers A
2047	Drumcondra South A	2153	Ushers B
2048	Drumcondra South B	2154	Ushers C
2066	Inns Quay A	2155	Ushers D
2067	Inns Quay B	2156	Ushers E
2068	Inns Quay C	2157	Ushers F
2073	Mountjoy A	2161	Woodquay A
2074	Mountjoy B	2162	Woodquay B
2075	North City	4031	Portmarnock North
2076	North Dock A	5036	Dalkey Upper
2079	Phoenix Park	5059	Killiney South
2088	Rotunda A		

Table 2: Electoral Divisions to be included as part of Dublin Bay Outer Area

Natura 2000 areas

SPAs, SACs and (proposed) NHAs located within or immediately adjacent to Dublin Bay are shown in Table 2.

SAC	Baldoyle Bay	North Dublin Bay	Irelands Eye	South Dublin Bay	Howth Head	
SPA	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	North Bull Island	Irelands Eye			
NHA (p)	Baldoyle Bay (p)	North Dublin Bay (p)	Irelands Eye	South Dublin Bay (p)	Dalky Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill	Howth Head

Table 3: Areas to be included as part of Dublin Bay inner core

River Catchments

Dublin Bay is fed freshwater by rivers located within the Eastern River Basin District. This basin contains 16 distinct river basins including the Boyne, Nanny/Delvin, Avoca, Liffey, and Tolka. Rivers and catchments relating to Dublin Bay include: Tolka, Liffey (Cammock/Camac enters Liffey downstream of Heuston), Dodder, Santry and Broadmeadow. The taskforce is aware that there are inherent biogeochemical linkages through hydrological flows between Dublin Bay and the river basin catchments within immediate and wider hinterlands.

Marine Side Delineation

The marine side boundary will incorporate the following area and include all Natura 2000 areas within or immediately adjacent to it. Land side physical features were used to project a boundary line out to sea beyond the Burford Bank and to provide physical evidence of a boundary.

From the Stack (Irelands Eye) clear of the Nose of Howth bearing 159° (True) but to include the Natura 2000 designated area around Howth Head and Irelands Eye extending inland into the Broadmeadow estuary the inner marine side boundary bearing extends beyond the Burford bank where it is intersected by a 055° (True) bearing from Martello Tower on Dalky Island (Martello Tower). This area includes all of Dalkey Island extending to the mainland (southern tip of Sorrento point, Latitude 53° 16'.12 North) from Dalky Island and any current or future Natura 2000 designated area associated or adjacent there with. The intersection point of these two bearings east of Burford Bank is 53° 19'.06 North and 6° 00'.3 West. The *x,y* coordinates are: 333299.8468, 231618.4779.

It is proposed that an outer marine zone will be delineated at a further point in time and space. It is furthermore proposed that Kish lighthouse 53°18.65' North, 5°55.4' West will be utilised as a marker for the outer boundary to be determined at a later date². Kish is a physical feature and may therefore provide a useful point to determine an outer limit for the Bay.

Notwithstanding the marine side delineation using both Natura 2000 areas and bearings to pinpoint an intersection point beyond the Burford Bank, as described above, the following will apply: that the marine side boundary adjacent to any land point within either the “inner core” or “outer areas”, will at all times extend at least 500 metres from the HTL directly out to sea (marine side).

7. Request from Dublin Bay Task Force

The Dublin Bay Task Force hereby requests the Minister to –

1. Formally recognise the Dublin Bay Task Force and provide it with a new remit having regard to the findings and recommendations set out herein.
2. Establish the formal structures recommended to prepare a Master Plan for Dublin Bay based on the Marine Strategy and the principles of ICZM.

² The latitudes and longitudes referenced may be adjusted slightly once the Admiralty convert their charts to “WGS 84 Datum”

3. Provide the legislative back-up to enable the Task Force to undertake combined terrestrial/marine planning as part of the Regional Planning Guidelines Review and to implement the Dublin Bay Master Plan.
4. Agree funding with the Director of the Dublin Regional Authority.

July, 2009
Members of the Dublin Bay Task Force

Endorsements:-

This report, which was sent to all those interested individuals/organisations who took part in the public consultations and meetings held by the Dublin Bay Task Force, is formally endorsed by the following:-

Ms. Veronica Heywood,
Chair: An Taisce's Booterstown Nature Reserve Management Advisory Committee
Member: SPC for Culture, Amenities & Community Development
Member: Irish Association of the United Nations

Mr. Bob Wardell,
Sandy Cove and Glathule Residents Association

Ms. Lorna Kelly,
Sandymount Residents Association

Mr. Stephen Conlon, on behalf of
Irish Marine Federation

Ms. Beatrice Kelly, on behalf of
Heritage Council

Mr. Sean Dublin Bay Loftus

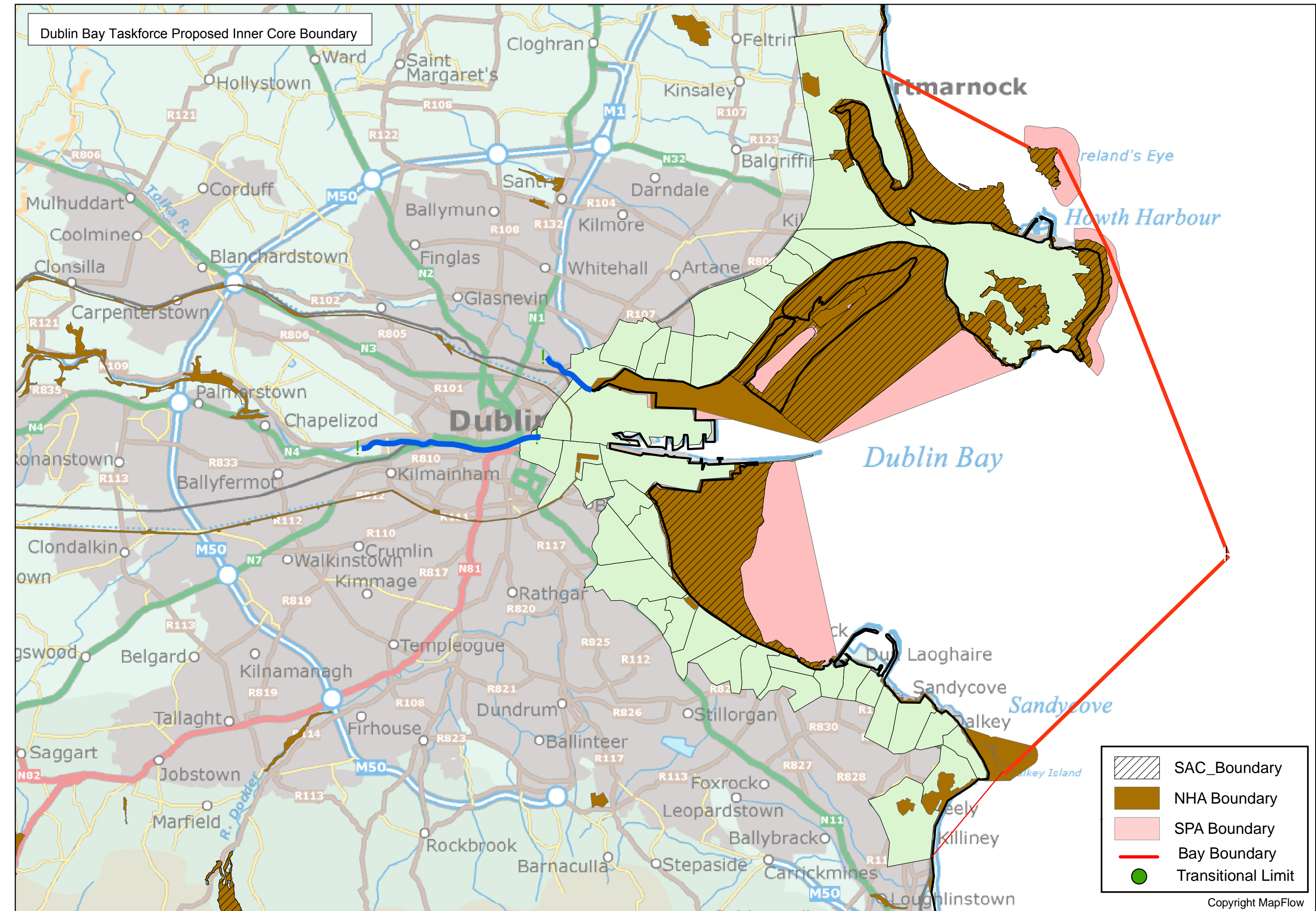
Mr. Sean Haughey, T.D., Minister of State

Mr. Eamon Gilmore, T.D.

Mr. Tommy Broughan, T.D.

Mr. Finian McGrath, T.D.

Dublin Bay Taskforce Proposed Inner Core Boundary



Dublin Bay Taskforce Proposed Outer Area

