

Learning about Marine Protected Areas (MPA)



Activity Sheet – 5th and 6th class

1. How much bigger is Ireland's ocean area compared to the size of the island of Ireland?

2. How big approximately is the size of Ireland's ocean?

3. What is a Marine Protected Area?

4. Why are Marine Protected Areas chosen? (hint: think of the type of area chosen)

5. What are MPA's designed to do?

6. Why does Ireland need more MPA's?

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7. Give 2 examples of important species that we need to protect in Ireland?

9. What percentage of Ireland's ocean was protected in 2019?

10. What percentage of Ireland's ocean is currently protected?

11. What percentage of Marine Protected Areas is Ireland aiming to have protected by 2030?

12. Name 3 problems that are happening in the ocean right now.

13. Name a solution that will help the ocean.

14. How can you play your part in protecting the marine environment?

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Answer Sheet– 5th and 6th class

1. How much bigger is Ireland's ocean area compared to the size of the island of Ireland?
7 times
2. How big approximately is the size of Ireland's ocean?
500,000,000 km²
3. What is a Marine Protected Area?
A Marine Protected Area is like a national park, but found in the open ocean, around a group of islands, or by the coast for example.
4. Why are Marine Protected Areas chosen?
MPAs are areas usually chosen because they are very important to a special species, habitat or certain marine features For example where certain species have nurseries, or species that visit to feed.
5. What are MPA's designed to do?
It is designed to prevent harm by human activities in this area, such as by over-fishing, fossil fuel drilling, pollution, disturbance, and habitat damage.
6. Why does Ireland need more MPA's
We have important species and habitats to protect.
7. Give 2 examples of important species that we need to protect in Ireland?
Basking Shark, puffin, angel shark, coral, eelgrass, phytoplankton.
8. What percentage of the Ireland's ocean was protected in 2019
2%
9. What percentage of Ireland's ocean is currently protected
8% now almost protected
10. What percentage of marine protected areas is Ireland aiming to have by 2030
30%

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12. Name three problems that are happening in the ocean right now?

Problems on land: too much waste, not enough recycling, dirty rivers flow to the sea, pollution from industry.

Bad aquaculture: Fish farms, bad water quality, spreads disease, hurts wild fish, food used is unsustainable.

Overfishing: Too much, too fast, unwanted fish thrown away, different fishing methods, damage to seabed, nursery areas not protected.

Less biodiversity: 1/3 less in last 50 years. Lot less numbers and species left. Not enough MPAs, MPAs not looked after, climate change.

Too many ships: Ships burn fossil fuels, melting Arctic ice, marine litter from ships, noise pollution.

Marine litter: Found everywhere, even in the deepest parts, wildlife eat it by accident, wildlife gets tangled, found in our seafood.

Deep-sea mining: Fossil fuels – oil found under the seabed. Materials for technology. Materials for building. Noise pollution.

13. What are the solutions?

On land: **Sustainable Production** – are the products going to last a long time, is it good for the planet, is it sustainable, could it be made from natural products, part of the circular economy. No emissions, no chemical pollution, less chemicals used in products such as sunscreen, Laws for land and sea

No litter: Smarter production, no single-use, clean up.

Good aquaculture: Good design as people depend on fish for food around the world, safer food for fish, eating different fish, natural disease control

Fishing: Take less. Better types of fishing methods like the small fishing boats used in communities in Ireland. Less/no fishing in MPAs

Minerals: Stay in the ground! Keep fossil fuels in the ground. No noise. No toxic spills. Carbon goes here.

More biodiversity: Big MPAs, no small pockets but all connected. Look at the whole design for all the species as animals move. At least 30%. No bad activities. More life coming back

14. How do you play your part in the marine protection?

Leave only footprints.

Explore your shore –become a scientist yourself.

Clean up – all of us play a part

Create and Educate – express how you feel about the natural world