The 16th Annual Marine Economics and Policy Research Symposium

From Evidence to Action: Advancing Sustainable Marine Policy and Economies

December 1st, 2026, Porter Shed, Galway City Centre

08.30 – 09.00	**Registration and Tea/Coffee**	
09.00 - 09.10	Welcome and Overview of the Days Proceedings	Prof Stephen Hynes, SEMRU, University of Galway

Session 1	**The Ocean Economy in Transition**	Chair: Dr. Niall McDonough, Marine Institute
09.10 - 09.30	The Global Ocean Economy: An Update	Dr James Jolieffe, OECD
09:30 – 09.50	Ireland's Ocean Economy: Recent Developments	Ms. Sanjana Mehrotra & Ms. Jenny O'Leary, Marine Institute
09.50 - 10.10	Modelling the Social and Economic Impacts of Offshore Wind in Ireland	Dr Tuyen Tran, Marine Institute
10:10-10:30	Balancing Offshore Renewable Energy and Fisheries: Socio-Economic Evidence for Marine Spatial Planning	Dr. Matthew Coleman, Marine Institute
10.30-10.50	Governance barriers to floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea and the EU Ocean Act	Prof Wesley Flannery, Queens University Belfast
10.50 - 11.00	Q&A including views and discussion on future research needs	

11.00 – 11.30 **Break**

Session 2	**Valuing Marine Ecosystems for Policy and Decision-Making**	Chair: Dr. Debbie Pedreschi, Bord Iascaigh Mhara
11.30 – 11.50	Encouraging respondents to consider ability-to-pay in contingent valuation: evidence from deep-sea coral restoration in Italy	Dr Silvia Gallegati, Università Politecnica delle Marche: Ancona
11.50 – 12.10	Estimating the benefit value of eutrophication reduction in Oslofjord: A choice experiment	Dr Wenting Chen, Norwegian Institute for Water Research
12.10 – 12.30	Willingness to pay for biodiversity considerations in land and sea energy developments	Ms Marie-Christin Lanser, SEMRU, University of Galway
12.30– 12.50	Valuing progress towards Good Ecological Status and marine restoration targets in Finnish coastal waters	Dr Liisa Saikkonen, Finnish Environment Institute
12.50 - 13.00	Q&A including views and discussion on future research needs	

13.00 – 14.10 ***Lunch***

Session 3	Understanding People and Communities	Chair: Edel Doherty, University of Galway
14.10 – 14.30	A cross-country (Portugal, Italy and Ireland) comparison of public attitudes to the marine	Ms. Ana Trovão, University of Aveiro.
14.30 – 14.50	National and coastal community attitudes to the marine	Dr Julian Worley, University of Galway
14.50 – 15.10	Coastal community attitudes to funding local marine restoration projects	Ms Sarin Delahunty, University of Galway
15.10– 15.30	Public Attitudes to MPA Designation	Prof Stephen Hynes, SEMRU, University of Galway
15.30 – 15.40	Discussion on future research needs	

Session 4	Socio-Economics of MPA Designation. The MPA LIFE Ireland project	Chair: Oliver Ó Cadhla Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
15.40 – 16.00	Modelling spatial priorities for MPA designation	Prof Louise Allcock, Zoology, University of Galway
16.00 – 16.20	Modelling fishers site choice and MPA designation	Dr Luis Garcia Covarrubias, SEMRU, University of Galway
16.20– 16.40	Modelling public preferences for MPA designation	Mr Jacob, Ankamah, SEMRU, University of Galway
16.40 – 17.00	Translating established international good practice for stakeholder engagement in MPA designation for the policy and cultural landscape of Ireland	Dr Emma Verling & Dr David Whyte University College Cork
17.00 – 17.10	Discussion on future research needs	
17.10	Close	