



Irish Sea Region

Margaret Moore

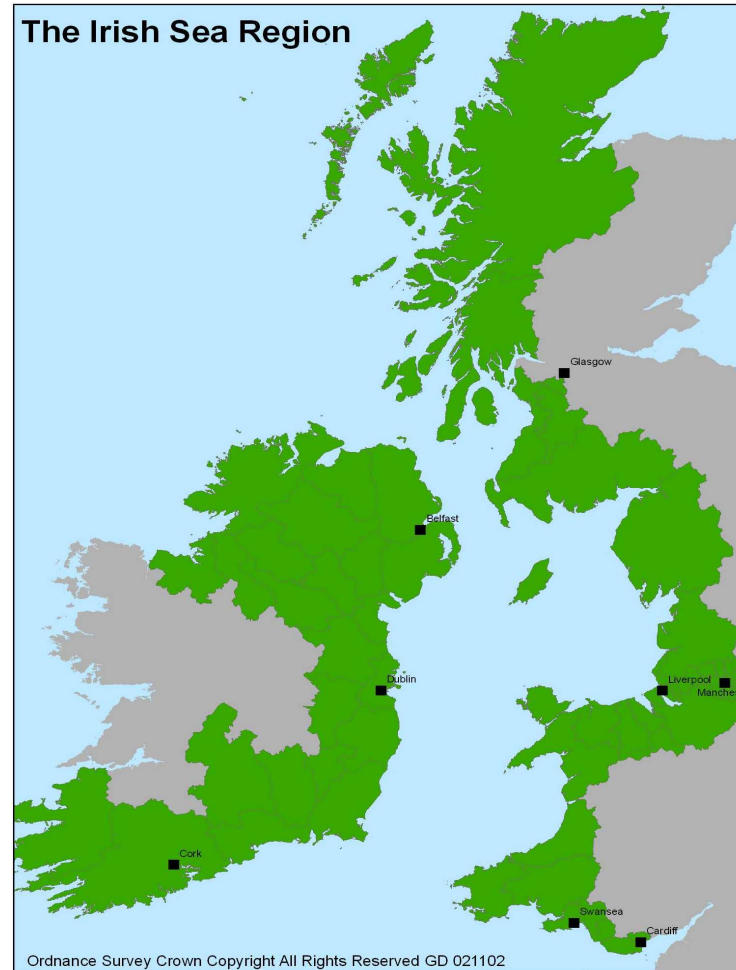
North West Development Agency, UK

18 June 2010

Irish Sea Region map

Key facts and figures

- The Irish Sea Region is the **9th largest economy in Europe** worth approximately €474.3 billion per annum making it larger than the economies of Switzerland, Sweden, Poland and Greece to name but a few.
- The Irish Sea Region's economy grew by 31% between 2000 and 2007 compared and EU 27 growth of 34%.
- It is home to some **18.7 million** people and the population has grown by 7.5% since 2000.
- It is home to 7 international airports, 23 universities, 20 major ports and 9 World Heritage Sites
- There were 36.3 million tourist nights spent within the mega-region in 2007 and there were **77 million passenger flights** to airports in the region in 2008



Irish Sea Region – functional economic/co-operation area



Aim

To identify and co-ordinate issues which cannot be addressed at local/regional or Member State level alone.

Objectives

- Establish the Irish Sea Region (ISR) as a functional economic area
- Develop an Integrated Framework for Action
- Develop initial projects
 - Marine Spatial Planning framework
 - Renewable energies
 - Connectivity
 - Wealth generation
 - Formalising institutional arrangements through the ISR
- Source appropriate funding

An Integrated Framework for Action



Purpose

- To identify and agree common issues and co-ordinated actions

Aim

- To address issues which cannot be tackled at the level of region, locality or Member State alone

Outcome

- Sustainable growth through effective transnational actions, projects and initiatives which would collectively benefit the participant organisations within Ireland, UK and Isle of Man.

Integrated Atlantic Strategy



How does the Irish Sea Region fit into this?

Irish Sea Region =

- Functional economic/co-operation area
- Contributes to delivery of some of Atlantic Strategy aspirations – renewable energy, climate change etc.
- Provides a strong mechanism for 2-way dialogue with Integrated Atlantic Strategy, via multi-level governance structure