

Proposal Outline

Open Topic	Defined by Applicant (relevant to one of the four research themes specified below) and contributing to the general objective of “advancing towards a climate neutral ocean economy”.
Research Theme(s)	1) Tourism & Leisure 2) Transport & Logistics 3) Security & Surveillance 4) Ocean Literacy & Education
Background and Rationale	During 2020, Indecon, International Economic Consultants were engaged to carry out a review of the National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021, including an assessment of the effect on maturity level due to the investment of funding under each research theme. These four research themes have been selected, as having the lowest level of investment in the review period from 2017 to 2019. Applicants should refer to the National Marine Research & Innovation Strategy 2017-2021 to ensure that their selected topic addresses national strategic priorities.
Scope of Research (Scientific/ Technical Challenge)	Applicants can submit a topic under one of the four research themes specified above, and are guided to the “Research Topics” and “Focus of Funding” sections under the relevant research theme in the National Marine R&I Strategy. Some suggested areas of research are as follows: • <i>Tourism & Leisure</i> – investigate options for new low carbon and eco-friendly activities for coastal communities, examining new ecotourism initiatives internationally that could be adapted for the Irish market. • <i>Transport & Logistics</i> - investigate the implementation of low carbon fuels for maritime transport, the use of ICT and technology to ensure efficient transportation systems including working with organisations developing offshore renewables. • <i>Security & Surveillance</i> – examine the impact of Brexit with respect to maritime security, investigate how to ensure the safety of seafarers and fishers in Irish waters, including users for recreational activities through new developments in technology or recent international initiatives. • <i>Ocean Literacy & Education</i> – In an Irish context, investigate optimum methodologies to achieve behavioural change among citizens and stakeholders leading to more sustainable practices and citizen engagement in ocean issues. Develop a workable strategy, based on best available knowledge and practice to measure over time ocean awareness among stakeholders and citizens.

	The fellow would ideally have a primary degree and PhD in marine science, oceanography, business or a related discipline.
Expected Impact	The fellow will engage with relevant national and international networks, and explore opportunities for collaboration and securing further research funding under Horizon Europe. This fellowship will help to build national expertise in this research area. The fellow will produce policy briefs for stakeholders, and publish their research findings as widely as possible through peer-reviewed papers, conference presentations, articles, etc.
Location of Fellow	Higher Education Institute or Public Research Body (Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland)
Duration and Funding Available	4 years €100,000 per annum (i.e. total €400,000 maximum for duration of four years)
References	Failte Ireland - Ecotourism Handbook Grzegorz Bonusiak, 2021. "Development of Ecotourism in Svalbard as Part of Norway's Arctic Policy," Sustainability, MDPI, Open Access Journal, vol. 13(2), pages 1-16, January. Nathan Gray, Shane McDonagh, Richard O'Shea, Beatrice Smyth, Jerry D Murphy, Decarbonising ships, planes and trucks: An analysis of suitable low-carbon fuels for the maritime, aviation and haulage sectors, <i>Advances in Applied Energy</i>, Vol 1, 2021, 100008, ISSN 2666-7924, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adapen.2021.100008 Preben Terndrup Pedersen, <i>Marine Structures: Future Trends and the Role of Universities</i>, Engineering, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2015, Pages 131-138, ISSN 2095-8099, https://doi.org/10.15302/J-ENG-2015004. Defence and security after Brexit - Overview Report (2017) Irish Maritime Directorate Strategy 2021-2025 Study supporting a possible network of maritime training academies and institutes in the Mediterranean Sea basin (2016) Training the 21st Century Marine Professional (2018)