# Developing the Potential of the Maritime Economy for WalesCall for evidence

The Enterprise and Business Committee of the National Assembly for Wales is carrying out an inquiry into how Wales can realise the potential of the **Maritime Economy.**

## Background

The ‘Blue Growth Agenda’ – the potential to develop the Maritime Economy is seen as a crucial driver of economic growth for Wales. It is currently the focus of various initiatives to increase the development of new forms of sustainable energy, both wind and tidal.

Wales has a unique advantage in this area – there are four planned tidal lagoons as well as the Anglesey Energy Island Programme. At a European level the European Commission is keen to help countries realise the enormous economic growth potential of Europe’s seas and oceans, and they have a strategy and action plan in place for the Atlantic. The development of offshore wind is also prominent on the agenda, with the UK Government notably working closely with Norway, Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark in the North Sea area. This sits within the context of the Energy Union which aims to address energy security concerns, and deliver agreed EU-level climate and energy commitments.

The inquiry will look at how the public bodies in Wales are identifying sources of funding in this sector. EU funding, including Structural Funds Programmes, the Territorial Co-operation Programmes (INTERREG), Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 is likely to play an important role as well as the European Investment Bank, and the ability to attract private investment.

Developing the maritime economy is also seen as a way to regenerate coastal communities. In this respect we will be looking at the role of ports as hubs for connectivity and support for development of the maritime economy, the role of universities, the scope to develop local supply chains, and the potential for reskilling and retraining companies and their work forces for new industrial processes that will develop as the ocean energy sector grows.

It is crucial to ensure that Wales is in a position to take advantage of the financial support for these initiatives to establish itself as an important player in the new and emerging marine energy sector.

The Enterprise and Business Committee will be taking evidence from stakeholders during the coming months and we would like to hear from you this topic.

The report will be available at:

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=13275>

# Disclosure of information

The Assembly’s [policy on disclosure of information](http://www.assembly.wales/help/privacy/help-inquiry-privacy.htm) is available, please ensure that you have considered these details carefully before submitting information to the Committee. This policy can be requested in other formats by contacting the Committee Clerk.

# Submitting evidence

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission form to SeneddEcon@assembly.wales.

Alternatively, you send it to:

Clerk,
Enterprise and Business Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

## Your contact details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Organisation (and role if applicable): |  |
| Telephone/Mobile number: |  |
| Email: |  |

# Consultation questions

## Role of Government

### Question 1

|  |
| --- |
| Do you think the Welsh Government is taking a strategic approach to developing the potential of the maritime economy? |
|  |
| Are there any examples of best practice in this area? |
|  |

### Question 2

|  |
| --- |
| How can we use existing EU funding sources to support the sector? |
|  |
| What should Welsh Government and others do to identify and make use of these? |
|  |

### Question 3

|  |
| --- |
| Please can you give an assessment of the way in which Wales is engaging with EU level initiatives such as the Ocean Energy Forum and Ocean Energy Europe. |
|  |

## Ports

### Question 4

|  |
| --- |
| How effective are the Welsh ports and hinterland connections in Wales in promoting connectivity to Ireland and the rest of Wales? |
|  |
| How do the Enterprise Zones help to promote the ports and related businesses? |
|  |

### Question 5

|  |
| --- |
| How can Welsh ports, ferry operators and related businesses benefit from and support the development of the Maritime economy, including ocean energy? |
|  |
| What support should be provided to ensure this benefit is properly realised? |
|  |

### Question 6

|  |
| --- |
| What are the implications of the St David’s Day announcement which proposes to devolve the responsibility of ports policy to Wales? |
|  |
| How can this support connectivity and the development of the Maritime Economy? |
|  |

## Energy

### Question 7

|  |
| --- |
| How can Wales realise the strategic importance of planned initiatives such as the tidal lagoon projects in West Wales and the Anglesey Energy Island Programme? |
|  |

### Question 8

|  |
| --- |
| Please tell us what you think are the key barriers and risks to development of ocean energy and how Wales can help overcome these. |
|  |

## Further information

|  |
| --- |
| Please tell us anything else you would like to mention this topic. |
|  |

Thank you for contributing to our inquiry