



**COINNIGH ÉIRE  
SAOR Ó FRACÁIL**

**Content:**

## Introduction

## Political situation

- Governments position – political parties – individual politicians
- Option licenses issued
- Irelands give away

## Shale Gas activities in the Republic of Ireland

- active companies
- amount of know resources
- level of development of SG industry
- mapping of resources

## Level of mobilization

- number of groups
- what we have done so far
- what do we have achieved – what has to be done?
- update on activities

Ineke Scholte  
Tubbercurry  
Co. Sligo

email: [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org)  
[www.frackingfreeireland.org](http://www.frackingfreeireland.org)

## Introduction

In the ROI. Licensing options were issued on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 to three companies. The licensing area covers land in 12 out of 26 counties, in the rural West and North West of Ireland. On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 exploration licenses for hydraulic fracturing were issued in Northern Ireland, just across the border from the Republic of Ireland.

A number of local groups opposed to fracking have been set up in Ireland, primarily in the North West, the area with the largest estimated reserves.

Because Tamboran Resources has been granted licenses on both sides of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland we try to work together with NI. Northern Ireland and Ireland are different countries, with different governments, and some lingering political antagonism. Thus even though the area that would be fracked is geographically contiguous fracking free campaigners have to deal with two different governments and political situations. Also different licences have been issued: licensing explorations in NI and only licensing options in the ROI for the respective sides of the fracking area that straddles the border.

## Political situation

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy with a president. The current government is a coalition government between the centre-right Fine Gael (74 seats) and the Labour Party (37) seats. On the whole the government is completely preoccupied with the economy and meeting its commitments under the EU-IMF bailout program.

The Government does not appear to have an official position on hydraulic fracturing in Ireland and is awaiting the outcome of the EPA report, which has yet to be commissioned.

Six counties in the licensed area - VOTED for a ban or a moratorium and three Counties voted to amend their development plans. (Nov 2011- Jan 2012) None of these motions have been implemented yet. NI Assembly voted for a moratorium (August 2011)

## Companies

Between 1960 and 2001 12 wells were drilled. All had gas shown but deemed uneconomic. Due to new technology licences were issued

Licensing options are issued for a two years period, ending 28 Feb. 2013 to three companies:

Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd 1, an Australian Company in the North West Carboniferous Basin South. It encompasses 986 sq km, LANGCO ltd (Lough Allen National Gas Company) an, Irish Company in North West Carboniferous Basin South as well, 467 sq km and Enegi Oil plc a UK Company, Clare Basin for an acreage of 495 sq km

Tamboran Resources and Enegi Oil are the active companies and carried out desktop and field studies. We expect that they will apply for an exploration licence before 30 November 2012

According to Tamboran Resources the amount of resources are 4.4 trillion cubic feet NI and ROI (of which 50% in the ROI and 50% in NI). The value of the resources depends on the source of information: it varies from € 55 billion according to the Irish Times (should be € 5.5 billion) to €7 billion according to the Irish Independent. No data are available from Enegi Oil.

Various SAC (Special Area of Conservation) are close to the proposed fracking areas. See the pink colour on the fracking Map.

Tamborans CEO stepped down recently, Tamboran gave € 20,000 to the Manorhamilton Business Forum and had to put on hold plans to hire at least 10 people in Leitrim this year as it awaits the Government latest report (EPA, not commissioned yet)

The CEO of LANGCO (former known as Finavera) ceased recently and the company were struck off the register in January and registered again in August 2012.

### **Campaign**

We have groups, networks and individuals. In NI approximately 3 groups/networks and in the ROI approximately 20. Campaigners are keeping in contact by No Fracking Ireland face book and Fracking Ireland google groups. Information can be found on the Fracking Free Ireland website and people are updated on global fracking issues by the Newsletter Fracking Matters.

### **What have we done so far?**

We started to raise awareness in the licensing option areas by organizing public meetings, inviting (international) guest speakers. We hosted Greg Pallast (book Vulture Picknick) and Jessica Ernst (Alberta, Canada) which had a huge publicity value with national television coverage.

We made presentations to the councils which caused them to pass motions to ban or have a moratorium on fracking. Also delegations to the Minister for Energy (ROI) and Minister for Environment (NI).

We went out on the streets/events handing out leaflets etc. We organized fun family days, wrote letters and submissions to politicians, designed a lot of logos and posters and launched the Guaranteed Fracking Free campaign 'to celebrate and promote Ireland's present fracking-free status. Ireland's clean environment and "green" image are priceless assets for Irish businesses, especially in the tourism and agri-food sectors. We are proud of the Irish beef, baby formula, heritage, unspoiled landscape. Our beef is 'free range'!

On Global Frackdown day we went out on the streets on three locations: handing out leaflets in Dublin, a family fun day in Manorhamilton (Co. Leitrim North) and a protest demonstration in Carrick-on-Shannon (Co. Leitrim South). Approximately 200 and 150 people did attend .

A Grass root gathering was organised during the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> October in Galway.

### **What do we have achieved? – What has to be done?**

We have succeeded in raising awareness in the North West in the option licensed area's and the majority of the people is against it.

We need to raise a awareness in the wider area. Especially the people in Dublin need to know that fracking could affect them. The risk of contamination of the Shannon and Dublin's drinking water (in future) is important. In the nearby future a seminar will be organized with the title "*Beyond Fossil Fuels – a coming reality or prevented by 'transition' energy sources?*" An international speaker will be invited for early March.

Despite our efforts to raise awareness and get people out on the streets to protest, still a lot of people have never heard about fracking:

A key role in this plays the media. The Sunday Independent and most of our newspapers were owned, until relatively recently, by Tony O'Reilly, who also owns Providence Resources (and Rathlin Island was granted licenses to Singleton . Tony O'Reilly is the CEO of this company).

RTÉ, the national broadcaster, is owned by the Government and there is a negative perception in the media towards people who take part in demonstrations in Ireland.

## 1. Political situation

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy with a president. The current government is a coalition government between the centre-right Fine Gael and the Labour Party. On the whole the government is completely preoccupied with the economy and meeting its commitments under the EU-IMF bailout program.

### Parties in the 31<sup>st</sup> Dail: (166 seats)

Fine Gael (74), Labour (37), Fianna Fáil, (21), Sinn Féin(14), Socialist Party (2), People Before Profit Alliance (2), Independent (15) Workers and unemployment Action group South Tipperary (1)

### Parties in the 24<sup>th</sup> Seanad (60 members)

Fine Gael (19), Fianna Fáil (14), Labour (12), Sinn Féin (3), Independent (12)

### Governments position – political parties – individual politicians

- The Government does not appear to have an official position on hydraulic fracturing in Ireland
- The Government is awaiting the outcome of the EPA report, which has yet to be commissioned.
- Sinn Féin and the Socialist party are opposed to fracking
- A few individual politicians (Councilors/TD's/MEP's) from Fianna Fáil, Independent, are opposed to fracking
- The counties in the licensed area VOTED for a ban or a moratorium (NOT implemented)  
Ban: Counties Clare, Roscommon, Sligo, Donegal, Cavan. Moratorium: Co. Leitrim  
(Between Nov 2011 and Jan 2012)
- Three Counties (Co. Clare, Co. Sligo and Co. Donegal) voted to amend their development plans. None of these motions have been implemented yet.
- NI Assembly voted for a moratorium (August 2011)

### Option licenses issued to

1. Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd 1 Australian Company
  - North West Carboniferous Basin
  - 986 sq km
  - License period (1 March 2011 – 28 Feb. 2013)
2. LANGCO ltd – (Lough Allen National Gas Company, Irish Company)
  - North West Carboniferous Basin
  - 467 sq km
  - License period (1 March 2011 – 28 Feb. 2013)
3. Enegi Oil plc UK Company
  - Clare Basin
  - 495 sq km
  - License period (1 March 2011 – 28 Feb. 2013)

### Remarks:

All companies held an option license valid for 24 months.

**Ireland's give away**

The Government receives 25% of royalty only on net profits. Set-up and operational costs are tax deductible. It is estimated that the royalties after the deductions will be 7% (source Shell to Sea)

|                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| <b>2. Shale Gas activities in ROI</b> |
|---------------------------------------|

**Active Companies – option licenses**

1. Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd 1 Australian Company active in Co. Fermanagh (NI), Co. Leitrim, Co. Sligo and Co. Cavan
2. Enegi Oil plc UK company, active in Co. Clare

**Amount of know resources****North West Carboniferous**Value

- Source Tamboran: (the data are questionable, they are very old)
- 4.4 trillion cubic feet NI and ROI together
  - 2.2 trillion cubic feet in NI and 2.2 trillion cubic feet in ROI

Source: Irish Times

Shale gas worth \$ 55 bn, this should be \$ 5.5 bn.

Source: Independent.ie

Shale gas value of € 7 bn

**Clare Basin**Coverage

495 sq km = 122.317 acres

Wells:

12 were drilled between 1960 and 2000

Co. Leitrim:

Thur Mountain, MacNean, Dowra, Drumkeeran

Co. Clare: Doonbeg, drilled to a depth of 3353 m

organic carbon from 792 –1052 m

Organic rich potential hot shale 150 m thick (Source website Enegi Oil)

**Level of development of SG industry**

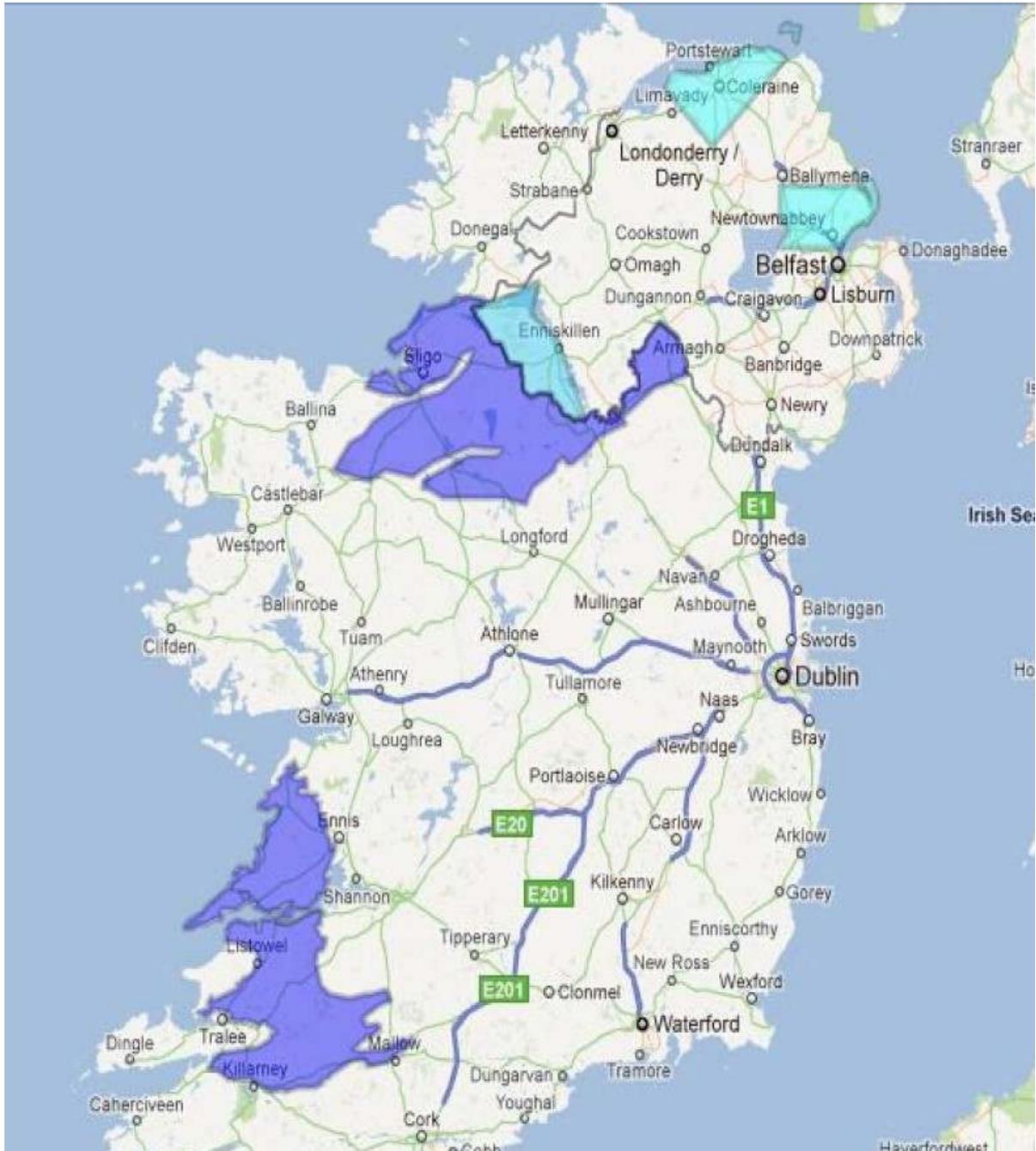
Tamboran and Enegi Oil: field studies and desktop studies.

Note:

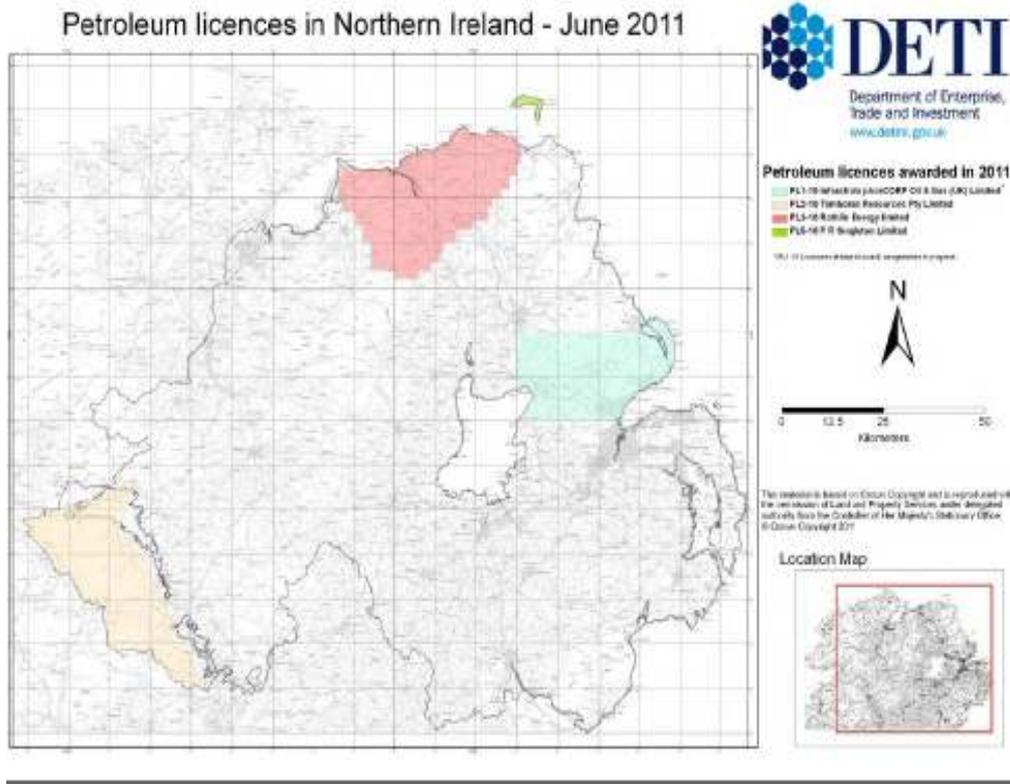
- Tamboran recently gave € 20.000 to the Manorhamilton Business Forum
- Various SAC (Special Area of Conservation) are close to the proposed fracking areas. See the pink colour on the fracking Map.

## Mapping of resources, (see also attached images)

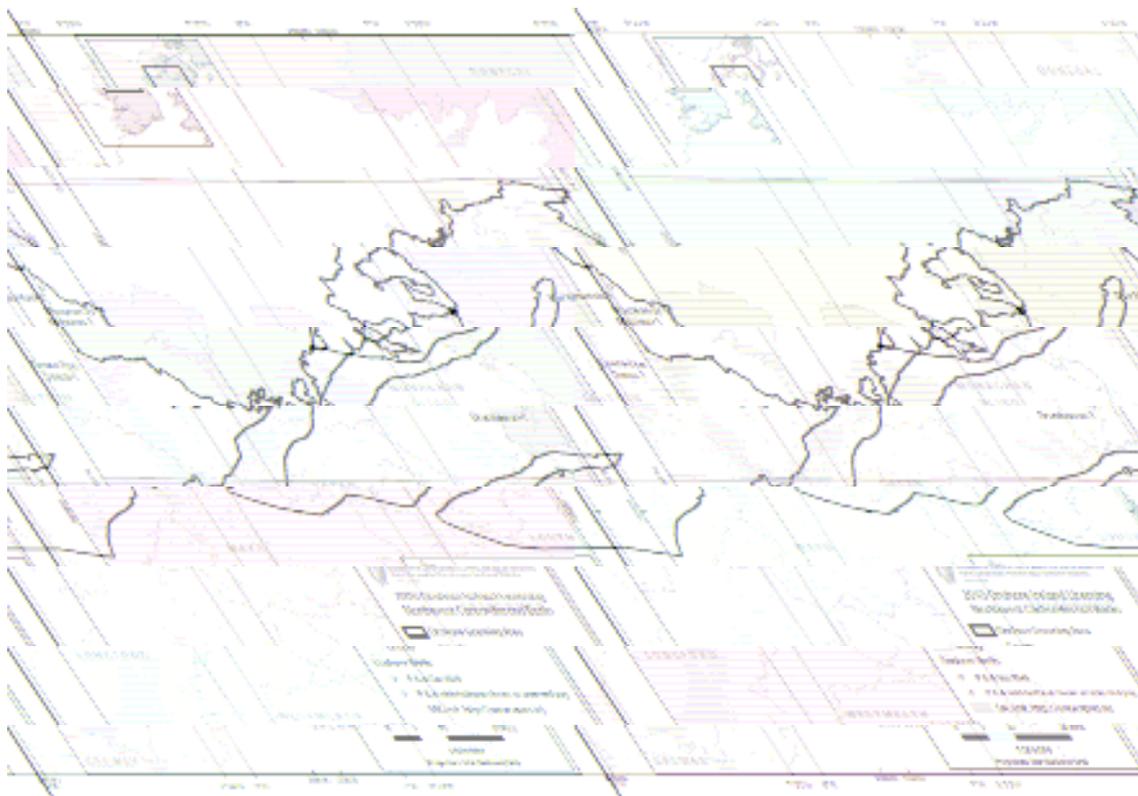
Northern Ireland (light blue) and Republic of Ireland (dark blue)



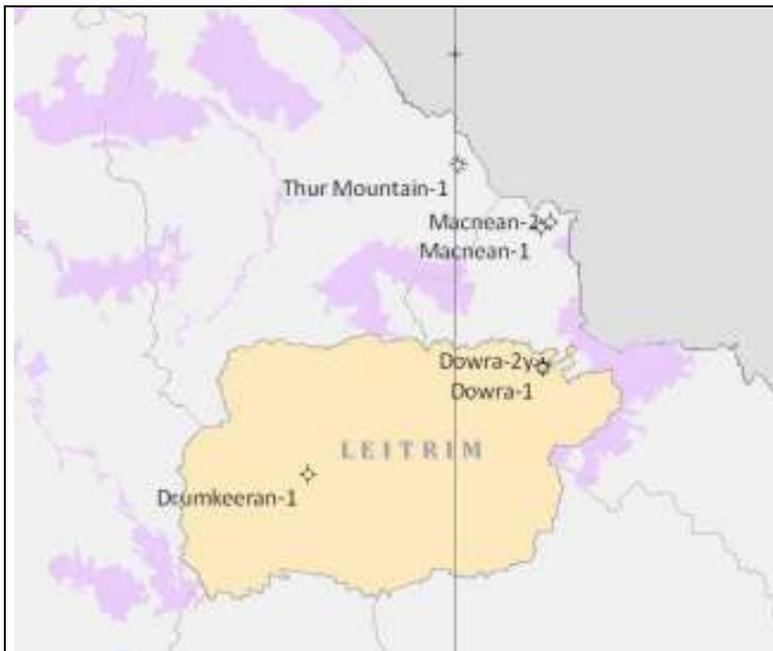
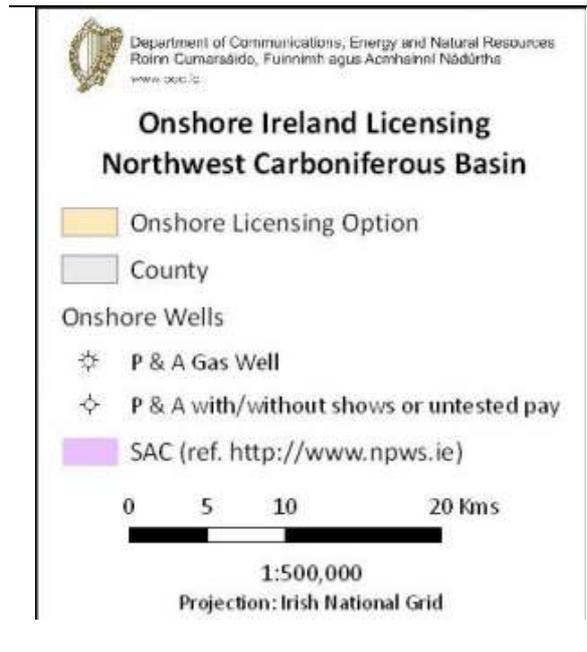
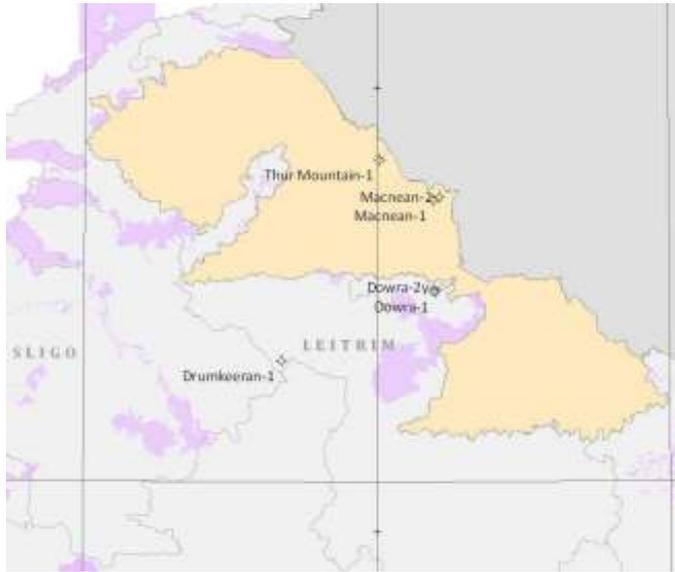
**NI- incl North West Carboniferous Basin North**



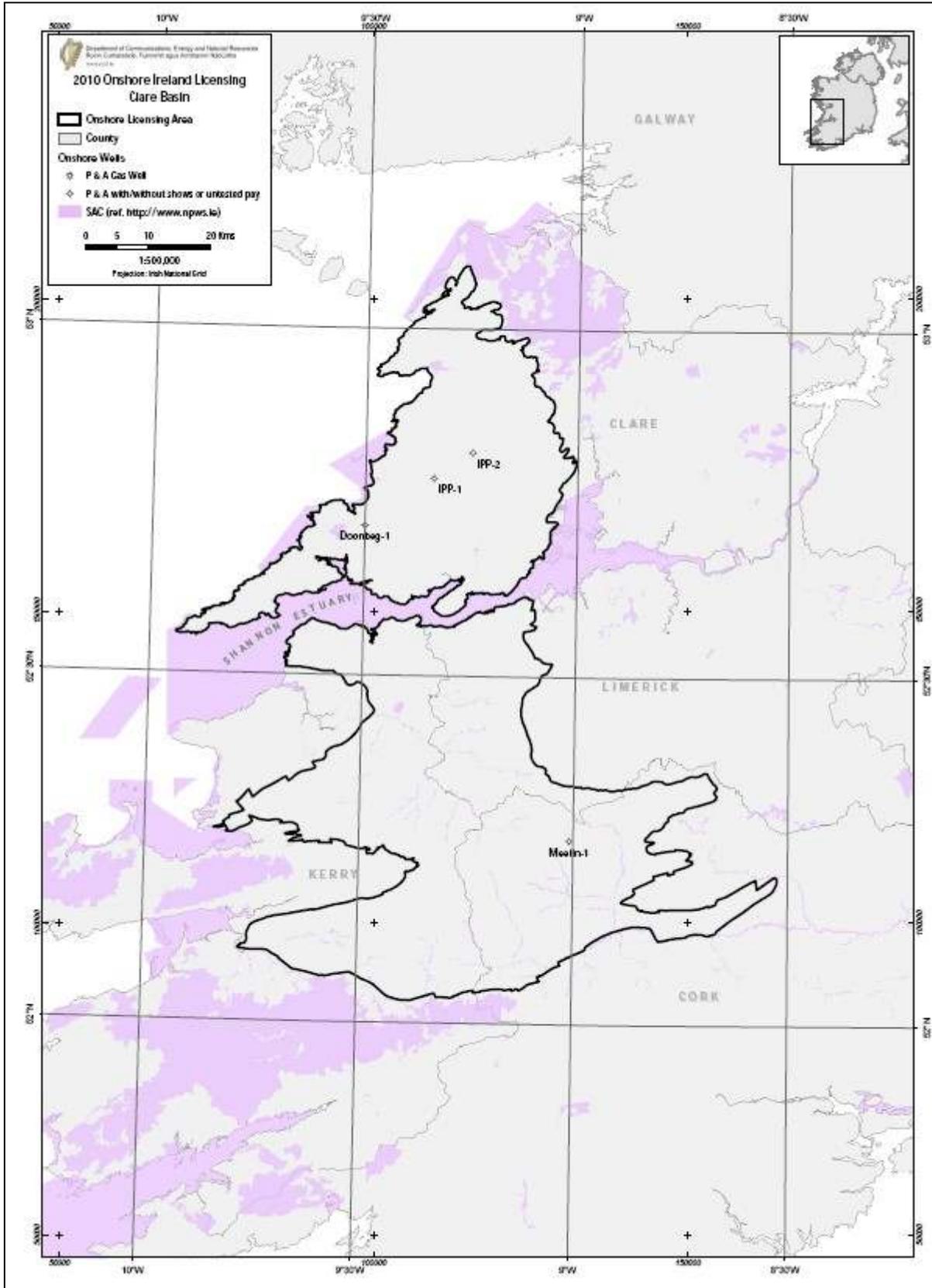
**Republic of Ireland NW Carboniferous Basin South**



**North West Carboniferous Basin South – Tamboran Co. Leitrim**



### Clare Basin – Enegi Oil





Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources  
 Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnemh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha  
[www.dce.ie](http://www.dce.ie)

### 2010 Onshore Ireland Licensing Clare Basin

Onshore Licensing Area

County

#### Onshore Wells

P & A Gas Well

P & A with/without shows or untested pay

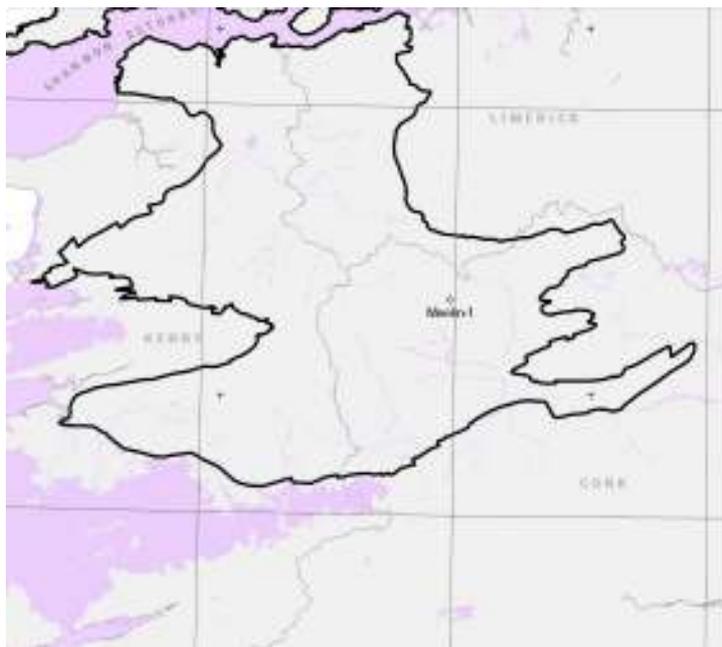
SAC (ref. <http://www.npws.ie>)

0 5 10 20 Kms



1:500,000

Projection: Irish National Grid



### 3. Level of mobilization

#### Number of groups

We have groups, networks and individuals. From Belfast to Cork

NI – approx. 3, ROI – approx. 20

No Fracking Ireland facebook and Fracking Ireland google groups



Environmental Pillar: An association of a number (27) of environmental groups working together. They have a policy on shale gas, shale oil, coal bed methane and fracking

*Environmental Pillar members:* An Taisce. Bat Conservation Ireland, BirdWatch Ireland. CELT - Centre for Ecological Living and Training. Coast Watch. Coomhola Salmon Trust. Crann. ECO UNESCO. Feasta. Forest Friends. Friends of the Earth. Global Action Plan Ireland, Gluaiseacht. Grian. Hedge Laying Association of Ireland. Irish Doctors Environment Association. Irish Natural Forestry Foundation. Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Irish Seal Sanctuary. Irish Seed Saver Association. Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. Irish Wildlife Trust. The Organic Centre. Sonairte. Sustainable Ireland Cooperative. VOICE. Zero Waste Alliance Ireland

**What we have done so far.**

- raising awareness: public meetings, handing out leaflets etc
- guest speakers invited
- family days organised
- letters to politicians, submissions written
- poster, logos designed
- grass root gathering
- guaranteed fracking free campaign launched:  
'to celebrate and promote Ireland's present fracking-free status.

Ireland's clean environment and "green" image are priceless assets for Irish businesses, especially in the tourism and agri-food sectors. We are proud of the Irish beef, baby formula, heritage, unspoiled landscape. Our beef is 'free range'!

**What do we have achieved? – What has to be done?**

- We have succeeded in raising awareness in the North West in the option licensed area's and the majority of the people is against it.
- Tamboran's CEO Richard Moorman recently stepped down
- Tamboran had to put on hold plans to hire at least 10 people in Leitrim this year as it awaits the Government latest report (EPA, not commissioned yet)

- The people in Dublin need to know that fracking could affect them. The risk of contamination of the Shannon and Dublin's drinking water (in future) is important. Also the reputation of the country and its effects on tourism and agri-business. (Irish beef and infant formula)
- Raising awareness by presentations in the wider area: Sligo South, Clare, Dublin, Athlone, Castlebar

**Update on activities in the nearby future**

Presentations in the wider area: Sligo South, Clare, Dublin, Athlone, Castlebar

**Planning:**

- Seminar "*Beyond Fossil Fuels – a coming reality or prevented by 'transition' energy sources?*"
  - Raising awareness of climate change - Informing people about sustainable energy sources - Examining so-called "transition fuels - Making recommendations for practical measures for communities to reduce their carbon footprint.
- International guests speaker in early March