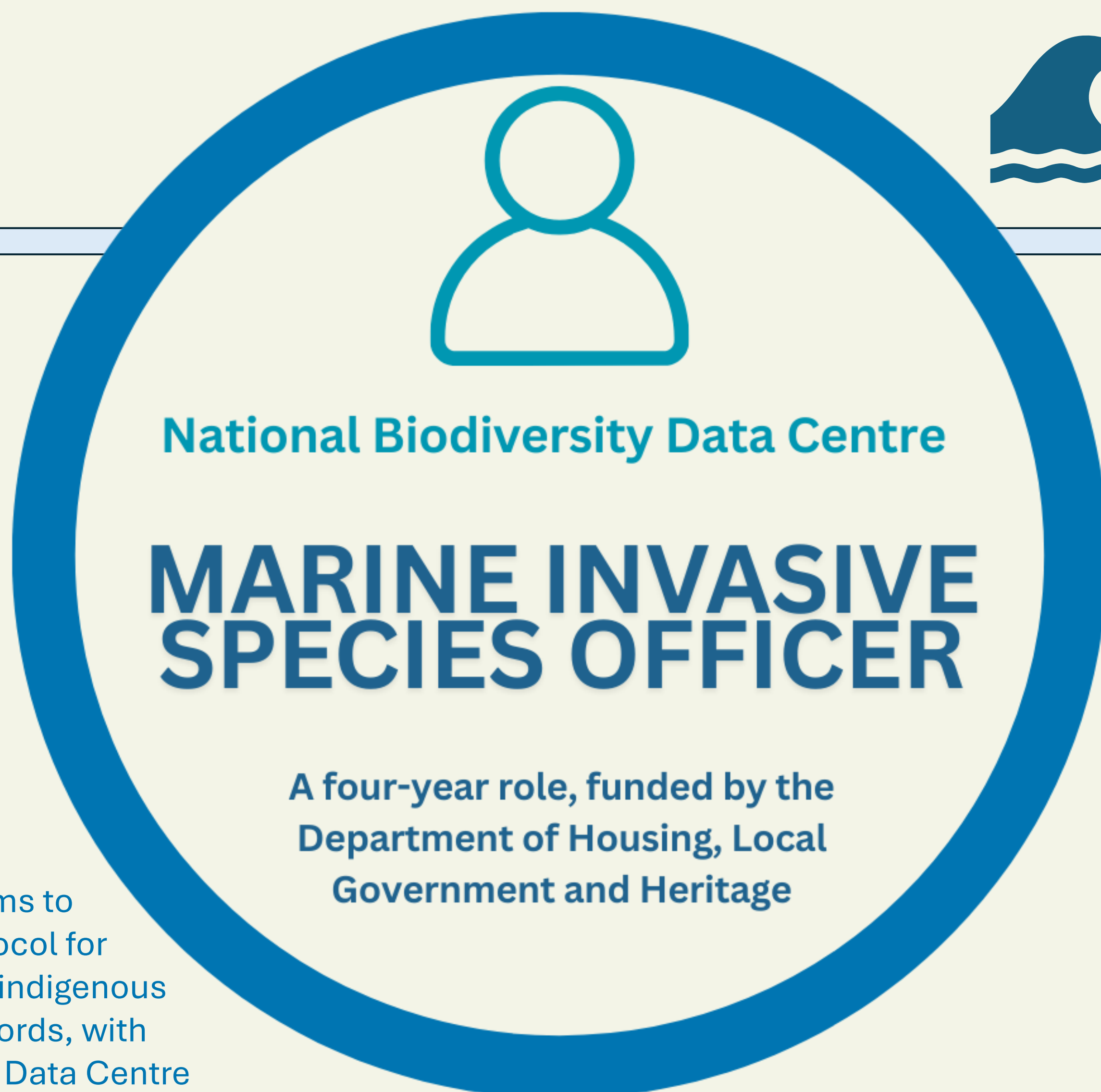


Non-Indigenous and Invasive Species Strategic Plan

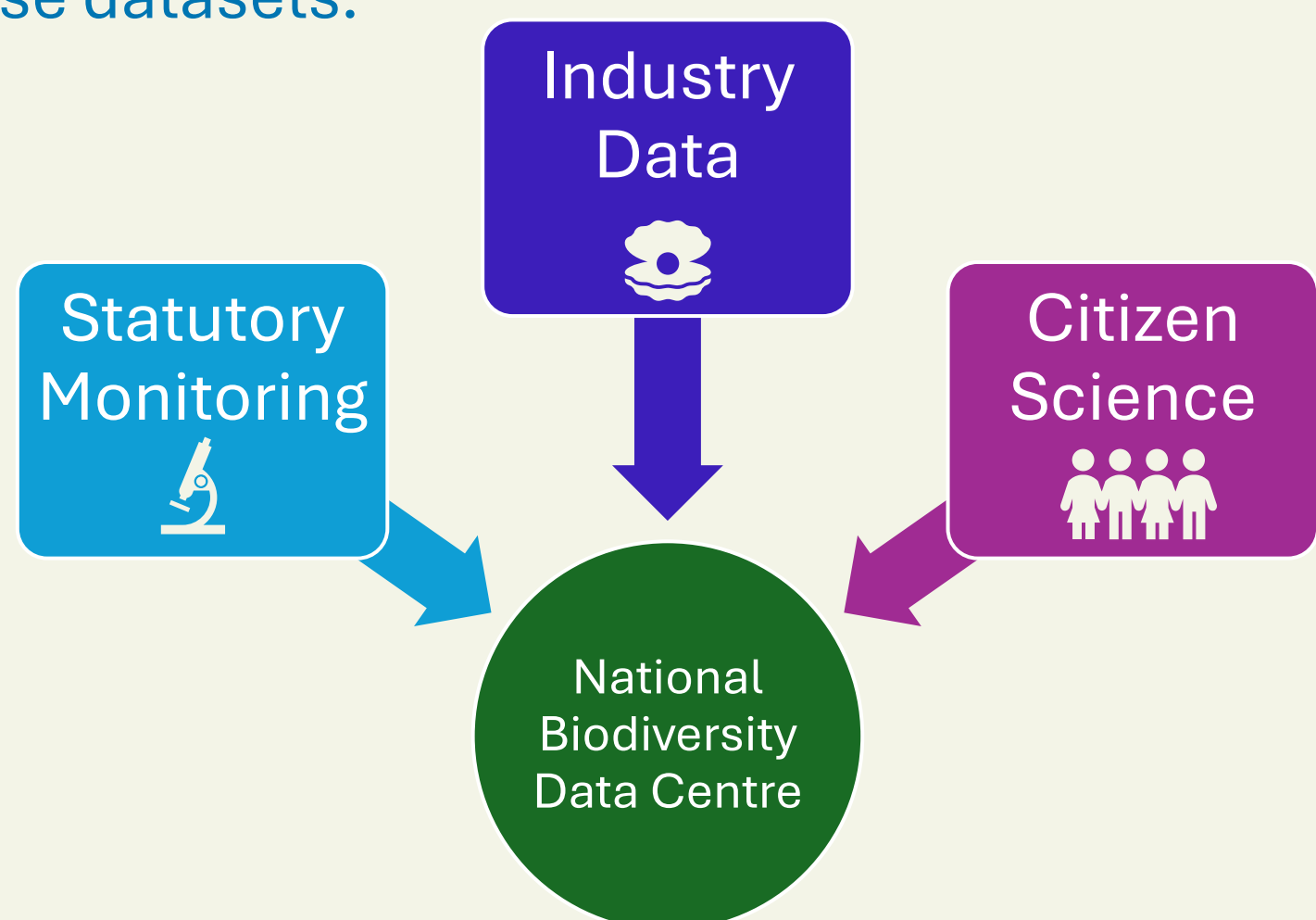
The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) came into force in 2008. The Directive aims to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU's marine waters through assessment of 11 high level descriptors. Descriptor 2 (D2) relates to non-indigenous species and defines GES as; *Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystems*. Currently there are knowledge gaps, insufficient data and a lack of management measures in multiple areas to make an accurate assessment. To tackle the pressures associated with D2 in a coherent way, a non-indigenous and invasive species management strategy for marine and coastal areas is needed. This work is overseen by a Steering Committee of experts in the field, co-ordinated by this funded work programme.



Data Flow

Channelling all data collection efforts into a central repository is widely accepted as a positive and necessary step to streamline data for reporting, research and management purposes.

This work programme aims to develop a data flow protocol for marine and coastal non-indigenous and invasive species records, with the National Biodiversity Data Centre becoming the national repository for these datasets.



Surveillance and Monitoring

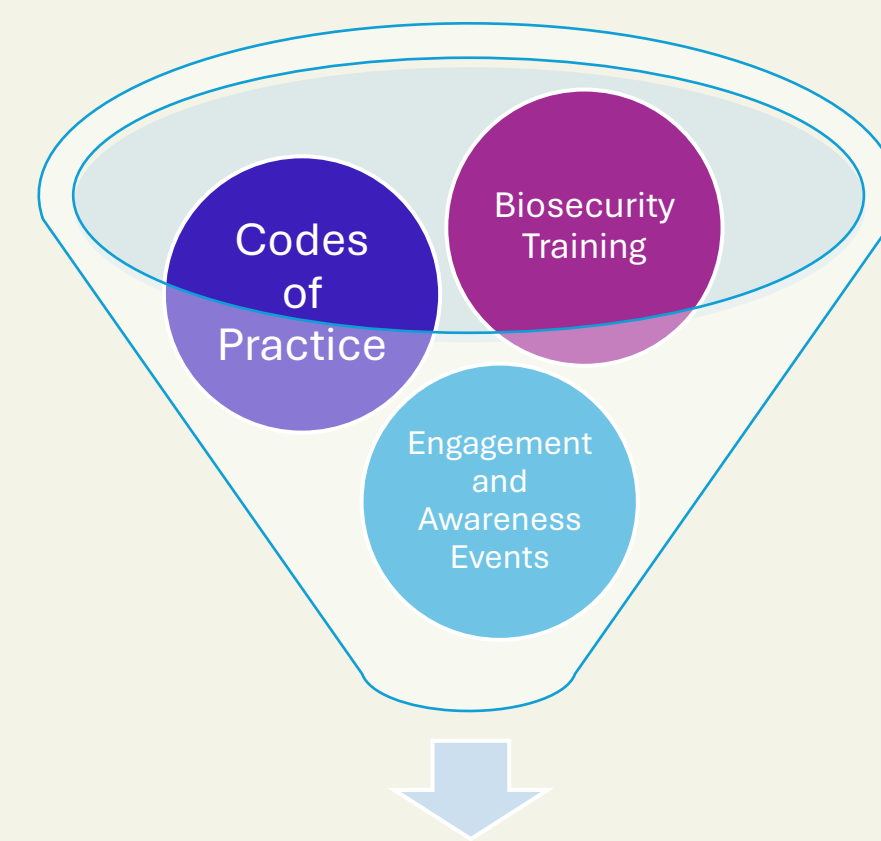
Currently, there is no coordinated marine invasive species surveillance and monitoring programme in Ireland. Surveys of non-indigenous species are conducted as part of aquaculture monitoring, but outside of this there are major gaps.

Given the scale of Ireland's marine environment, understanding the extent and spread of non-indigenous species is important to make robust assessments.

This work programme aims to establish a working group to scope the approach of a long-term systematic surveillance and monitoring programme for marine and coastal areas. This will include a combination of staff-based monitoring and Citizen Science. This work package links and will collaborate with the Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative.

Implementation Support

From 2026, implementation support of the strategic management plan will be provided to key stakeholders. A communication strategy will be developed and a suite of tools will be used to implement biosecurity measures, promote participation and raise awareness. This will include outreach support and a query support service.



Implementation Support



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife



For more information, contact Victoria Popleton, the Marine Invasive Species Officer, via vpopleton@biodiversityireland.ie