



An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE
THE BLACKWATER BANK SAC (Site code: 002953)
THE WEST CONNACHT COAST SAC (Site code: 002998)
HEMPTON'S TURBOT BANK SAC (Site code: 002999)
ROCKABILL TO DALKEY ISLAND SAC (Site code: 003000)
PORCUPINE BANK CANYON SAC (Site code: 003001)
SOUTH EAST ROCKALL BANK SAC (Site code: 003002)

as

SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

THE BLACKWATER BANK SAC

(1). LOCATION OF THE BLACKWATER BANK SAC

The Blackwater Bank is one of a series of sandbanks running roughly parallel to the coastline of County Wexford. The total area of this site is approximately 12,407 hectares.

(2). WHY THE BLACKWATER BANK SAC IS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

This designation includes the sand banks: Lucifer Bank, Blackwater Bank and Moneyweights Bank. These features are at the southern end of a series of offshore sand banks that run along the eastern seaboard of Ireland as far north as County Dublin. These sand banks form a series of banks from Cahore Point, in the north, extending almost as far southwards as Rosslare, County Wexford. These features range from 2 km to 4 km from the shoreline. Offshore sand banks are generally formed from varying sediment fractions that range from cobbles to fine sand. The sediment surface is often rippled, through the action of currents and storms, and builds up into sand waves that may measure more than a meter in height and several meters in width.

Some of the banks shoal during low-tide but are generally between 4 m and 8 m below the sea surface at low tide. These banks are characterised predominantly by fine sand to medium sand with smaller percentages of very fine sand. Previous surveys indicated an area of high hydrodynamic activity with strong, tidally induced current speeds operating. Such currents do not allow for the settling out of finer particles of organic and inorganic matter. This type of current regime also tends to make the sediments quite mobile, with material being transported over some distance during strong phases of the tidal cycle. Such areas are characterised by low species densities. Low species numbers and densities in such habitat are probably due to the inhospitable nature of the environment, i.e. mobile sands, which demand specialised lifestyles for animals to either cope with, or escape from, sand abrasion.

The species recorded from the area are typical of sandy coastal habitats. A total of 35 species, from 4 phyla were collected. The most abundant species were the crustaceans (*Bathyporeia elegans*,

Pontocrates altamarinus, *Portumnus latipes* and *Urothoe elegans*), the segmented worms (*Spio armata*, *Scolelepis squamata*, *Nephtys longosetosa*, *Nephtys cirrosa*, *Magelona mirabilis*, *Spiophanes bombyx*, *Magelona johnstoni*, *Gastrosaccus spinifer* and *Levinsenia gracilis*) and the mollusc *Parvicardium minimum*. Analysis of the species has split the various faunal communities into two distinct assemblages: the “infralittoral mobile clean sand with sparse fauna” and “*Bathyporeia* spp. in infralittoral sand”.

The site is of conservation importance for its submerged sandbanks, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Qualifying Interests under the Habitat Directive

Habitats and Species List

Site Code 002953 Name BLACKWATER BANK

E.U. Habitats

Natura 2000 Code

1110

Description

Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water at all time

(3). SAFEGUARDING SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

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Any user contemplating undertaking such works is required to seek the consent of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. **Work can only commence on the grant of the Minister's consent.**

ACTIVITIES REQUIRING CONSENT

(ACTIVITIES LIKELY TO ALTER, DAMAGE, DESTROY OR INTERFERE WITH THE INTEGRITY OF THE SITE)

The following Activities Requiring Consent apply:

- Blasting, drilling, dredging or otherwise removing or disturbing rock, minerals, mud, sand, gravel or other sediment.
- Undertaking scientific research involving the collection and removal of biological material.

PLEASE NOTE:

In respect of any of the activities listed in the above Schedule, where an operation has been granted a consent licence or permission from another authority, separate consent will not be required from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). However, other authorities are required to consult the NPWS before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.

WEST CONNACHT COAST SAC

(1). LOCATION OF THE WEST CONNACHT COAST SAC

This site consists of a substantial area of marine waters lying off the coasts of counties Mayo and Galway in the west of Ireland. Comprising two parts, in its northern component the site extends from the coastal waters off Erris Head westwards beyond Eagle Island and the Mullet Peninsula in County Mayo. From there it extends southwards immediately off the coast as far as the entrance to Blacksod Bay. In its southern component, the site stretches from Clare Island and the outer reaches of Clew Bay at Old Head and continues southwards off the Mayo coast to the Connemara coast near Clifden and Ballyconneely, County Galway.

(2). WHY THE WEST CONNACHT COAST SAC IS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Predominantly coastal in nature, the site extends westwards into Atlantic continental shelf waters up to approximately 7-11 km from the mainland, although in its southern component it remains mostly inshore of the dominant islands: Clare Island, Inishturk, Inishbofin and Inishshark. Its area contains subtidal waters fringing these and other islands, as well as islets and rocky skerries off the County Mayo and County Galway coasts.

The site encompasses a diverse range of shallow marine habitats occurring in waters less than 100 m deep. These include a variety of seabed structures including reefs, islets and sedimentary basins. The site contains physical and hydrographic features believed to be important for Bottlenose Dolphins *Tursiops truncatus*, one of two cetacean species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. These features include shallow coastal bays, areas of steep seafloor topography and complex areas of strong current flow adjacent to estuaries, coastal headlands and islands, sandbanks, shoals and reefs. Its area borders existing designated sites for protected species and habitats, and lies adjacent to a wide array of coastal features including sheltered bays, estuaries, coastal cliffs and sea caves, several of which are located within protected sites.

Bottlenose Dolphin occurs within the site in all seasons and the area comprises a key habitat for the species both regionally and within Irish waters as a whole. Survey data show that Bottlenose Dolphin occurrence within the site compares favourably with another designated site in Ireland: the Lower River Shannon. Local population estimates off southwest County Mayo and Connemara, County Galway describe a minimum of 123 dolphins with possibly up to 150-200 individuals or more occurring within the site as a whole, exceeding estimates for the Shannon Estuary population. Significant structural linkages have been established between groups of dolphins utilising various coastal habitats within the site while a high proportion of individuals within this Bottlenose Dolphin community have been shown to range freely within its coastal waters. Analyses of genetic structure also show a fine scale distinction between dolphins sampled within the site and animals sampled at the Shannon Estuary or nationally.

Sighting records of Bottlenose Dolphins via coastal and boat-based observations from the Mullet Peninsula and outlying islands, outer Clew Bay, Clare Island, Roonagh, outer Killary Harbour, Ballynakill Harbour and west Connemara are significant for the west coast of Ireland and indicate widespread use of the area by individual groups of dolphins. Groups are known to alter their composition or to aggregate together within the site and comparatively high group sizes of up to 50-65 individual dolphins or more have been recorded in the site's northern and southern components. Adults closely accompanying calves are commonly observed in summer and autumn months at a number of locations within the site, and group foraging, resting or social behaviour are also regularly recorded.

Individual dolphins are also known to recur within and between years at key locations within the site (e.g., outer Killary Harbour, off the Mullet Peninsula), indicating a degree of site fidelity to its coastal waters.

The waters of the West Connacht Coast represent an exceptional area of key conservation importance for Bottlenose Dolphin in Ireland.

List of Qualifying Interests under the Habitat Directive

Habitats and Species Lists

Site Code 002998

Name West Connacht Coast

E.U. Species

Common Name
Bottlenose Dolphin

Scientific Name
Tursiops truncatus

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- Reclamation, including infilling.
- Use of excavators, rock breakers, bulldozers, back hoes or use of any other hydraulically-powered excavation equipment.
- Blasting, drilling, dredging or otherwise removing or disturbing rock, minerals, mud, sand, gravel or other sediment.
- Cutting, uprooting or otherwise removing plants.
- Introduction, or re-introduction, of plants or animals not found in the area.
- Undertaking scientific research involving the collection and removal of biological material.
- Storage, burial, disposal or recovery of any materials
- Modification of caves and/or their entrances.
- Application of pesticides, including herbicides
- Developing or consenting to the development or operation of commercial recreational/visitor facilities or activities.
- Alterations or repair of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or landslip drainage or stabilisation measures.
- Undertaking active acoustic surveys in the marine environment.

PLEASE NOTE:

In respect of any of the activities listed in the above Schedule, where an operation has been granted a consent licence or permission from another authority separate consent will not be required from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). However, other authorities are required to consult the NPWS before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.

HEMPTON'S TURBOT BANK SAC

(1). THE LOCATION OF HEMPTON'S TURBOT BANK SAC

Hempton's Turbot Bank is a sandbank 15 km northeast of Glengad Head, County Donegal. The area enclosed within the site boundary covers approximately 4,496 hectares.

(2). WHY HEMPTON'S TURBOT BANK SAC IS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

This bank was surveyed as part of the MESH programme during 2006 and the data collected from this work were subsequently analysed. Bathymetric mapping of the site showed it was characterised by large wind driven sand-facies along its length. The bank is approximately 15 metres below the surface at its shallowest point. Granulometric analysis showed that the bank ranged from gravel to fine sand but was dominated by very coarse and medium sand. Typical offshore sand banks are generally formed of varying sediment fractions, which through the action of currents and storms, often become rippled and build into sand waves that may measure meters in height and span the entire width of the bank. The action of these mobile sediments results in a dynamic habitat that is most suitable for species adapted to change.

The species recorded from the area are typical of coarse gravely sands in the offshore environment. Species identification of the benthic (bottom-living) infauna (below the surface) across all 14 stations sampled in the Hempton's Turbot Bank survey yielded a total count of 59 species, comprising 955 individuals, ascribed to 10 phyla. Of the 59 species enumerated, 24 were polychaetes (segmented worms), including *Syllis* sp., *Polygordius* sp., *Eusyllis blomstrandii*, *Autolytus alexandri*, *Autolytus inermis* and *Trypanosyllis zebra*; 19 were crustaceans, including the barnacles *Semibalanus balanoides* and *Elminius modestus*, the amphipods *Parapleustes bicuspis*, *Parapleustes assimilis*; porcelain crab *Pisidia longicornis*, hermit crab *Pagurus prideaux*, squat lobster *Galathea intermedia*; 6 were mollusks, including *Muculus discors* and *Modiolula phaseolina*; 3 species were echinoderms (brittlestars, sea cucumbers); 1 species was a pycnogonid (sea spiders) and 1 species was a chordate (lesser sand eel or sand lance *Ammodytes tobianus*). Five other phyla were recorded including cnidarians (jellyfish, corals), nemertean (ribbon worms), nematodes (round worms) and bryozoans (moss animals).

The site is of conservation importance for its submerged sandbanks, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

List of Qualifying Interests under the Habitat Directive

Habitats and Species List

Site Code	002999	Name	HEMPTON'S TURBOT BANK
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E.U. Habitats

Natura 2000 Code

1110

Description

Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

(3). SAFEGUARDING SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

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ROCKABILL TO DALKEY ISLAND SAC

(1). LOCATION OF THE ROCKABILL TO DALKEY ISLAND SAC

This site includes a range of dynamic inshore and coastal waters in the western Irish Sea. These include sandy and muddy seabed, reefs, sandbanks and islands. This site extends southwards, in a strip approximately 7 km wide and 40 km in length, from Rockabill, running adjacent to Howth Head, and crosses Dublin Bay to Frazer Bank in south county Dublin. The site encompasses Dalkey, Muglins and Rockabill islands.

(2). WHY THE ROCKABILL TO DALKEY ISLAND SAC IS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

The area selected for designation represents a key habitat for the Annex II species harbour porpoise, within the Irish Sea. Population survey data show that porpoise occurrence within the site boundary meets suitable reference values for other designated sites in Ireland. The species occurs year-round within the site and comparatively high group sizes have been recorded. Porpoises with young (i.e. calves) are observed at favourable, typical reference values for the species. Casual and effort-related sighting rates from coastal observation stations are significant for the east coast of Ireland and the latter appear to be relatively stable across all seasons. The selected site contains a wide array of habitats believed to be important for harbour porpoise including inshore shallow sand and mud-banks and rocky reefs scoured by strong current flow. The site also supports Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), for which terrestrial haul-out sites occur in immediate proximity to the site. Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) has also occasionally been recorded in the area. A number of other marine mammals have been recorded in this area including minke, fin and killer whales and Risso's and common dolphins.

Reef habitat is uncommon along the eastern seaboard of Ireland due to prevailing geology and hydrographical conditions. Expansive surveys of the Irish coast have indicated that the greatest resource of this habitat within the Irish Sea is found fringing offshore islands which are concentrated along the Dublin coast. A detailed survey of selected suitable islands has shown areas with typical biodiversity for this habitat both intertidally and subtidally. Species recorded in the intertidal included *Fucus spiralis*, *Fucus serratus*, *Pelvetia canaliculata*, *Ascophyllum nodosum*, *Semibalanus balanoides* and *Necora puber*. Subtidally, a wide range of species include *Laminaria hyperborea*, *Flustra foliacea*, *Alaria esculenta*, *Halidrys siliquosa*, *Pomatoceros triqueter*, *Alcyonium digitatum*, *Metridium senile*, *Caryophyllia smithii*, *Tubularia indivisa*, *Mytilus edulis*, *Gibbula umbilicalis*, *Asterias rubens*, and *Echinus esculentus*. These Reefs are subject to strong tidal currents with an abundant supply of suspended matter resulting in good representation of filter feeding fauna such as sponges, anemones and echinoderms.

This site is of conservation importance for reefs, listed on Annex I, and Harbour Porpoise, listed on Annex II, of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

List of Qualifying Interests under the Habitat Directive

Habitats and Species List

Site Code 003000

Name ROCKABILL TO DALKEY ISLAND

E.U. Habitats

Natura 2000 Code

1170

Description

Reefs

E.U. Species

Common Name

Scientific Name

Harbour porpoise

Phocoena phocoena

(3). SAFEGUARDING SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

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The following Activities Requiring Consent apply:

- Reclamation, including infilling.
- Use of excavators, rock breakers, bulldozers, back hoes or use of any other hydraulically-powered excavation equipment.
- Blasting, drilling, dredging or otherwise removing or disturbing rock, minerals, mud, sand, gravel or other sediment.
- Cutting, uprooting or otherwise removing plants.
- Introduction, or re-introduction, of plants or animals not found in the area.
- Removal of geological specimens including rock samples, minerals or fossils.
- Undertaking scientific research involving the collection and removal of biological material.
- Construction or alteration of tracks, paths, roads, bridges, culverts or access routes.
- Digging, ploughing, harrowing or otherwise disturbing soil or substrate
- Applying lime.
- Modification of caves and/or their entrances.
- Application of pesticides, including herbicides.
- Works on, or alterations to, the banks, bed or flow of a drain, watercourse or waterbody.
- Drainage works including digging, deepening, widening or blocking a drain, watercourse or waterbody.
- Water abstraction, sinking of boreholes and wells.
- Developing or consenting to the development or operation of commercial recreational/visitor facilities or activities.
- Alteration, renovation or removal of buildings, ruins or other structures.
- Alterations or repair of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or landslip drainage or stabilisation measures.
- Harvesting marine invertebrate species in intertidal areas.
- Driving mechanically propelled vehicles in intertidal areas, except over prescribed access routes.
- Undertaking active acoustic surveys in the marine environment.

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PORCUPINE BANK CANYON SAC

(1). LOCATION OF THE PORCUPINE BANK CANYON SAC

The Porcupine Bank Canyon lies at the continental margin of the Northeast Atlantic and slopes into the Rockall Trough (to the west) and Porcupine Seabight (to the east). The site is, at its maximum, approximately 48 km long and 29 km wide and is lies approximately 490 kilometers west of County Kerry.

(2). WHY THE PORCUPINE BANK CANYON SAC IS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

An existing SAC (South-West Porcupine Bank) bounds a branch of a submarine canyon that is part of a series of canyon systems incising the edge of this bank. Circulation patterns around the banks along the Irish margin cause the accumulation of nutrient rich waters on the tops of banks leading to high surface productivity which provide enriched food sources to the ecosystems occurring at the bank e.g. canyons and carbonate mounds. The Porcupine Bank was mapped during the Irish National Seabed Survey in 2000 by the R.V. *Bligh*. The multibeam echo-sounder data reveals in exceptional detail the terrain features of the canyon at this site. At ~55 km long and ~15 km wide it is the largest submarine canyon off the Porcupine Bank. It consists of a deep (up to 2600 m) main canyon with several side-canyons or channels branching into the continental shelf at water depths of between 1400 m and 800 m. The canyon widens seaward at the continental slope where the thalweg (the deepest continuous inline within a valley) occurs in 2600 m water depth. During the recent offshore survey it was noted that the substrate of the northern most transect was dominated by hard ground interspersed with small areas of soft sediment. The southern transect was initially characterized by soft sediment with occasional boulders and pebbles. Terraces, cliffs, overhangs and boulders were all noted. Dead coral also formed an element of the available habitats. These habitats conform to Reefs according to the EU Habitats Directive and are mostly geogenic in origin.

The fauna was highly diverse, particularly amongst the dead coral framework, and included: Black coral, soft coral (>2 species, including *Anthomastus* sp.), sea pen (*Pennatula* sp. on soft ground), gorgonians, encrusting sponges, desmospongia, glass sponges (particularly *Aphrocallistes* sp.), sea urchins (mainly *Cidaris cidaris*), anemones (including *Phelliactis* sp.), starfish, hydroids (stylasterids), fish, galatheids (>1 species and including *Chirostylus* sp. and *Munidae*), echiurans (particularly abundant on softer sediment), un-stalked crinoids, stalked crinoids, crabs (*Bathynectes* & *Chaecon* sp.), corallimorphs, brittle stars & sea cucumbers. Also present on the framework were anemones, various tubed worms, mobile crinoids, glass and desmosponges, asteroids, *Anthomastus* sp., *Cidaris cidaris*, fish, shrimp and squid. Dead coral and coral rubble was noted widely in the area.

The site is of conservation importance for reefs, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Qualifying Interests under the Habitat Directive

Habitats and Species List

<u>Site Code</u>	<u>Name</u>
003001	Porcupine Bank Canyon SAC

E.U. Habitats

<u>Natura 2000 Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
1170	Reefs

(3). SAFEGUARDING SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

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SOUTH EAST ROCKALL BANK SAC

(1). LOCATION OF THE SOUTH EAST ROCKALL BANK SAC

South East Rockall Bank is a relatively shallow bank to west-north-west of Ireland, separated from the Porcupine shelf by deeper areas within the Rockall Trough. The site is approximately 170 km long and 31 km wide, at its greatest extent, and is situated 335 km west-north-west of County Mayo.

(2). WHY THE SOUTH EAST ROCKALL BANK SAC IS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

The topography of the area lying within Irish waters was most extensively mapped during the Irish National Seabed Survey in 2001 by the R.V. *Bligh*. The multibeam echo-sounder data revealed the complexity of the bank which is characterised by several escarpment features (a long steep slope or cliff at the edge of a plateau or ridge) occurring at water depths between 500m and 1500m. The escarpment features can be traced over a total distance of approximately 300 km at the South Eastern Rockall Bank. Interpretations of seismic profiles revealed two large slumps at the upper parts of the slope. Whilst their origin is not clear, they may have developed as a consequence of lower sea levels or may be indirectly related to subsidence of the Rockall Plateau. The results of recent surveys indicated various areas of hard substrate including pebbles, boulders and exposed bedrock. These sometimes formed steep inclines, escarpments, vertical walls, and cliffs with ledges, overhangs and caves. The hard substrate was sometimes covered in a veneer of soft sediment. A number of sea mounds were also identified in the area.

The fauna encountered within the designated area include a range of poriferans (Desmonospongia, encrusting, glass sponge (*Aphrocallistes* sp.)), cnidarians (including *Anthipatharian* sp., sea whips, bamboo coral, black coral, *Lophelia pertusa*, soft corals (*Anthomastus grandiflora*), solitary corals (*Flabellum* sp., *Solenosmilia variabilis*), gorgonians, stylasteroid hydroids, sea pens (*Pennatula phophorea*), ascidians (sea squirts), starfish (*Brsingella coronata*), feather stars, sea cucumbers, brittle stars (*Ophiomusium lymani*), crustaceans (shrimp), and fish including eels and *Neocyttus* sp. A number of bird species have been recorded in the vicinity of South East Rockall Bank, including Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*). Other species included Sooty and Manx Shearwater, Gannet, Parasitic and Great Skua, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Kittiwake. Long-finned Pilot Whale and Sperm Whale are also known to occur at the Bank.

The site has been selected as a Special Area of Conservation for Reefs, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

List of Qualifying Interests under the Habitat Directive

Habitats and Species List

Site Code 003002

Name THE SOUTH EAST ROCKALL BANK

E.U. Habitats

Natura 2000 Code

1170

Description

Reefs

(3). SAFEGUARDING SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

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- Removal of geological specimens including rock samples, minerals or fossils.
- Undertaking scientific research involving the collection and removal of biological material.

PLEASE NOTE:

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(4). OBJECTING TO DESIGNATION

Persons with an interest in the site or whose interest may potentially be affected by the designation of this site can lodge an objection. Stage One (internal review) is conducted by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS). All objections must be lodged within three months of advertisement of these proposals; therefore, the deadline for receipt of objections to this proposal is Tuesday 5th March 2013.

If your objection is not successful following this review, it can then be considered further at Stage Two by the Designated Areas Appeals Advisory Board.

STAGE ONE - INTERNAL REVIEW

If you have concerns about the area being included in an SAC or to any restriction applied as a result of the designation and you wish to lodge an objection, you may do so by contacting:

**Designated Areas Objections Section
National Parks and Wildlife Service
7 Ely Place, Dublin 2**

Tel: (01) 888 3264 Fax: (01) 888 3278 E-mail: objections@ahg.gov.ie

All objections must be made in writing and where you wish to have areas excluded, be accompanied by a good quality map with the boundary of the area relating to the objection clearly outlined. Verbal requests will not constitute registration of your objection.

Most objections are dealt with at internal review stage. Adjustments to boundaries can only be made on scientific grounds.

STAGE TWO – REFERRAL OF OBJECTION TO ADVISORY BOARD

This option is available only where an objection is unsuccessful at internal review. The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the internal review and if relevant will be given the option of having the objection referred to the Designated Areas Appeals Advisory Board. In deciding Stage Two objections, the Minister will be advised by this Board. The Board is comprised of an independent chairperson and equal representation of marine users groups and conservationists.

The Board must confine itself to consideration of the scientific arguments relating to the specific area only. In this regard, a scientific report from a suitably qualified expert is required. Some grant assistance is available towards an appellant's costs for the expert engaged in the production of a scientific report. A list which details some independent experts who can provide assistance in drawing up the scientific evidence on which it is intended to base the appeal will be provided. An appellant is, of course, free to engage the services of an expert other than those listed on the panel.

(5). **COMPENSATION**

COMPENSATION PROVISIONS

The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is committed to the payment of a fair and proper level of compensation to those who are at a financial loss as a result of certain restrictions applied further to the designation of Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).

Affected users may seek compensation for losses incurred solely as a result of restrictions imposed to pre-existing activities in a proposed or designated NHA, SAC or SPA. Applications for compensation can only be considered where an application for consent to carry out works has been refused by the Minister and the activity requiring consent has already been in operation on-site for five years prior to the refusal or curtailment of the works.

Affected users who have had an application for consent refused may appeal against this refusal within, but not later than, 30 days after the date of refusal. Details of the appeals process are available from Site Protection Unit of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (address below).

Any compensation will be based on loss suffered by the applicant as a result of the depreciation of an interest within the site to which he or she is entitled. It should also be noted that any compensation offered will be reduced by the value of any payments that have been made under grant schemes.

Where the amount of compensation, if any, is in dispute, the applicant can apply to the High Court for the appointment of an arbitrator. It should be noted that, in relation to deciding on questions of compensation, the arbitrator will have the power to award costs against either or both parties.

Application for compensation must be made within six months of the date of refusal to grant consent, to:

**Site Protection Unit, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Newtown Road, Wexford
(Tel. (053) 9117310)**

Details should be provided of the losses incurred as a result of the refusal of consent and the applicant should outline the basis for the calculations.

Documentary evidence of past earnings and the activities that produced these should also be included with the claim.

The material will be examined and if appropriate, an offer of compensation will issue in due course.

(6). ADVERTISEMENT OF PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE THESE MARINE SAC

A proposal to designate this site as a SAC will be advertised (see advert below) on RTE Radio 1 and in the following national and trade newspapers:

**The Irish Times
The Irish Independent
The Examiner
The Connacht Tribune
The Donegal Democrat
The Derry Journal
The Mayo News
The Marine Times
The Skipper
The Wexford People
Foinse**

Week commencing 3rd December 2012

**FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM
THE LOCAL NPWS CONSERVATION RANGER
(see www.npws.ie for contact details),
OR E-Mail natureconservation@ahg.gov.ie**



GOVERNMENT NOTICE

SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION EAST, SOUTH EAST, SOUTH WEST, WEST, NORTH-WEST, AND THE NORTH COAST OF IRELAND



NOTICE TO ALL SHIPOWNERS, FISHING VESSEL OWNERS, AGENTS, SHIPMASTERS, SKIPPERS, FISHERMEN, YACHTSMEN and SEAFARERS

Mr Jimmy Deenihan, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, wishes to notify marine users that it is proposed to designate marine sites off the East, South East, South West, West, North West and North Coast of Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation, in accordance with Statutory Instrument No. 477 of 2011. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. These regulations provide a mechanism for formally designating and protecting important ecological areas of significance. SACs will form part of "Natura 2000", a network of protected sites throughout the European Union.

The sites (as listed below and indicated on map) have been identified as being of ecological importance and are being proposed as Special Areas of Conservation. The relevant areas are indicated on the accompanying map. Under the provisions of the 'European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations', users of the areas designated are obliged to consult with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht before undertaking certain activities which may adversely affect these areas.

Marine users and others, identified by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as holding rights or licences in Special Areas of Conservation are being notified directly in writing. They are being provided with a site map, site description, list of activities for which the Minister's consent is now required and procedures for objecting to the designation proposals. Objections to the proposals may be submitted within 3 months from the date of this notice.

Marine users and those affected by the designation in the following areas, who have not received formal notification may contact National Parks & Wildlife Service by e-mailing natureconservation@ahg.gov.ie or by contacting their local National Parks & Wildlife Service Conservation Ranger (listed in the State Directory pages of the Phone Book).

The grid references listed identify the boundaries of each Special Area of Conservation (Geographic Co-ordinate System: WGS84)

Site Code Special Area of Conservation	Co-ordinates		Area
002953- BLACKWATER BANK SAC	52° 31' 57"N	6° 9' 50"W	12,407.00ha
	52° 31' 15"N	6° 7' 52"W	
	52° 21' 5"N	6° 11' 1"W	
	52° 14' 51"N	6° 12' 54"W	
	52° 14' 49"N	6° 14' 3"W	
	52° 14' 50"N	6° 15' 39"W	
	52° 21' 37"N	6° 15' 39"W	
	52° 23' 21"N	6° 14' 18"W	

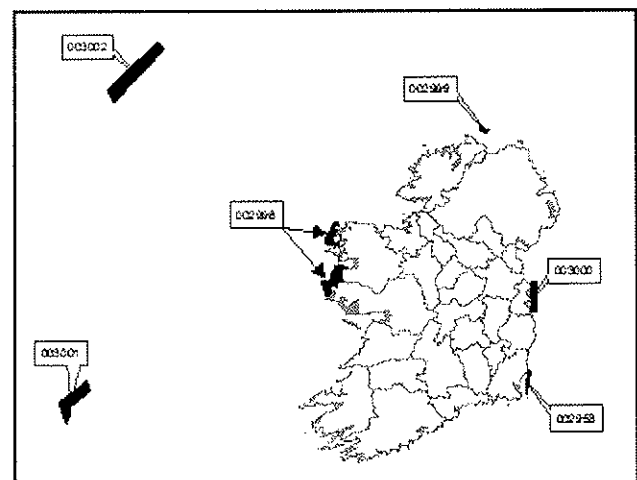
Site Code Special Area of Conservation	Co-ordinates		Area
002998- WEST CONNACHT COAST SAC	54° 19' 15"N	10° 3' 34"W	66,016ha
	54° 19' 18"N	10° 0' 2"W	
	54° 3' 47"N	9° 58' 24"W	
	54° 3' 34"N	10° 11' 33"W	
	54° 6' 27"N	10° 16' 45"W	
	54° 17' 25"N	10° 7' 12"W	
	53° 47' 14"N	10° 3' 22"W	
	53° 48' 45"N	9° 56' 36"W	
	53° 46' 58"N	9° 46' 30"W	
	53° 27' 7"N	10° 8' 6"W	
	53° 27' 7"N	10° 13' 2"W	
	53° 35' 59"N	10° 18' 58"W	

Site Code Special Area of Conservation	Co-ordinates		Area
002999- HEMPTON'S TURBOT BANK SAC	55° 28' 16"N	7° 2' 27"W	4,495.87ha
	55° 26' 48"N	6° 52' 48"W	
	55° 24' 35"N	6° 54' 2"W	
	55° 26' 8"N	7° 3' 45"W	

Site Code Special Area of Conservation	Co-ordinates		Area
003000- ROCKABILL TO DALKEY ISLAND SAC	53° 36' 45"N	6° 3' 53"W	27,325.8ha
	53° 36' 38"N	5° 57' 45"W	
	53° 14' 44"N	5° 58' 46"W	
	53° 14' 51"N	6° 5' 27"W	
	53° 21' 56"N	6° 5' 23"W	
	53° 25' 17"N	6° 4' 24"W	

Site Code Special Area of Conservation	Co-ordinates		Area
003001- PORCUPINE BANK CANYON SAC	52° 14' 23"N	14° 50' 24"W	78,559.36ha
	52° 7' 22"N	14° 45' 53"W	
	51° 54' 32"N	15° 7' 18"W	
	51° 49' 8"N	15° 6' 6"W	
	51° 41' 56"N	15° 10' 17"W	
	51° 56' 19"N	15° 21' 28"W	

Site Code Special Area of Conservation	Co-ordinates		Area
003002- SOUTH EAST ROCKALL BANK SAC	56° 23' 2"N	14° 2' 12"W	149,317.85ha
	56° 19' 5"N	13° 51' 46"W	
	55° 36' 0"N	14° 51' 0"W	
	55° 45' 0"N	15° 0' 0"W	





FÓGRA RIALTAIS

LIMISTÉIR FAOI CHAOMHNÚ SPEISIALTA AR CHÓSTA THOIR, THOIR THEAS, THIAIR THEAS, THIAIR, THIAIR THUATH, AGUS THUATH NA HÉIREANN



FÓGRA DO GACH ÚINÉIR LOINGE, ÚINÉIR BÁC IASCAIREACHTA, GNÍOMHAIRE, MÁISTIR LOINGE, SCIPÉIR, IASCAIRE, LUAMHAIRE agus MARAÍ

Is mian leis an Uasal Jimmy Deenihan, TD, an tAire Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta, fógra a thabhairt d'úsáideoirí mara go bhfuil sé beartaíte lárthreáin mhara a ainmniú ar chósta Thoir, Thoir Theas, Thiar Theas, Thiar, Thiar Thuaidh, agus Thuaidh na hÉireann mar Limistéir faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta, de réir ionstraim reachtúil Uimh. 477 de 2011. Rialachán na gComhphobal Eorpach (Eín agus Gnáthóga Nádúrtha) 2011. Foráiltear leis na rialacháin sin meicníocht chun limistéir thábhachtacha éiceolaíochta a bhfuil suntas ag baint leo a ainmniú agus a chosaint go foirmiúil. Beidh na SACanna ina gcuid de "Natura 2000", gréasán de lárthreáin faoi chosaint ar fud an Aontais Eorpaigh.

Sainaithníodh na lárthreáin (mar atá sa liosta thíos agus a léirítear ar an léarscáil) mar lárthreáin a bhfuil tábhacht éiceolaíochta leo agus beartaítear iad mar Limistéir faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta. Léirítear na limistéir ábhartha ar an léarscáil faoi ianhl. Faoi fhorálacha 'Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Gnáthóga Nádúrtha)' tá dualgas ar úsáideoirí na limistéir dul i gcomhairle leis an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta sula dtugtar faoi ghníomhaíochtaí áirithe a d'fhéadfadh drochthionchar a imirt ar na limistéir sin.

Tá fógra á chur i scríbhinn go díreach chuig úsáideoirí mara agus chuig daoine eile, a shainníthín an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta mar dhaoine a bhfuil cearta nó ceadúnais acu i Limistéir faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta. Tá léarscáil den lárthreáin, cur síos ar an lárthreáin, liosta gníomhaíochtaí a dteastaíonn toil an Aire uatha anois, agus nósanna imeachta chun cur in aghaidh na dtograí ainmnithe á soláthar dóibh. Féadfar agóidí in aghaidh an dtograí a chur isteach laistigh de thri mhí de dháta an fhógra seo.

Féadfaidh úsáideoirí mara agus iad siúd a mbeidh tionchar ag an ainmniúchán seo sna limistéir a leanas orthu, nach bhfuair fógra foirmiúil, teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra trí ríomhphost a chur chuig natureconservation@ahg.gov.ie nó trí dhul i dteagmháil lena Máoirseoir Caomhnaithe áitiúil de chuid na Seirbhíse Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra (tá liosta díobh seo i leathanaigh Eoláire an Scáit sa Leabhar Fóin).

Sonraíonn na tagairtí eangai thíos teorainneacha gach Limistéir faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta (Córas Comhordanáideach Tíreolaíoch: WGS84)

Cód an Lárthreáin	Limistéar faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta	Comhordanáidí	Achar
002953-	52° 31' 57"N	6° 9' 50"W	12,407.00ha
SAC BHRUACH	52° 31' 15"N	6° 7' 52"W	
NA HABHANAIN	52° 21' 5"N	6° 11' 1"W	
DUIBHE	52° 14' 51"N	6° 12' 54"W	
	52° 14' 49"N	6° 14' 3"W	
	52° 14' 50"N	6° 15' 39"W	
	52° 21' 37"N	6° 15' 39"W	
	52° 23' 21"N	6° 14' 18"W	

Cód an Lárthreáin	Limistéar faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta	Comhordanáidí	Achar
002998-	SAC CHÓSTA IARTHAR CHONNACHT	54° 19' 15"N 54° 19' 18"N 54° 3' 47"N 54° 3' 34"N 54° 6' 27"N 54° 17' 25"N 53° 47' 14"N 53° 48' 45"N 53° 46' 58"N 53° 27' 7"N 53° 27' 7"N 53° 35' 59"N	10° 3' 34"W 10° 0' 2"W 9° 58' 24"W 10° 11' 33"W 10° 16' 45"W 10° 7' 12"W 10° 3' 22"W 9° 56' 36"W 9° 46' 30"W 10° 8' 6"W 10° 13' 2"W 10° 18' 58"W
			66.016ha

Cód an Lárthreáin		Comhordanáidí		Achar
Limistéir faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta				
002999- SAC BHRUACH HEMPTON'S TURBOT	55° 28' 16"N	7° 2' 27"W	4,495.87ha	
	55° 26' 48"N	6° 52' 48"W		
	55° 24' 35"N	6° 54' 2"W		
	55° 26' 8"N	7° 3' 45"W		

Cód an Lárthreáin	Limistéir faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta		Comhordanáidí	Achar
003000-	53° 36' 45"N	6° 3' 53"W	27,325.8ha	
SAC CHLOCH	53° 36' 38"N	5° 57' 45"W		
DABHIOILA	53° 14' 44"N	5° 58' 46"W		
GO HOILEÁN	53° 14' 51"N	6° 5' 27"W		
DHEILGINSE	53° 21' 56"N	6° 5' 23"W		
	53° 25' 17"N	6° 4' 24"W		

Cód an Lárthreáin	Limistéar faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta		Comhordanáidí	Achar
003001- SAC CHAIN- NEON BHANC PORCUPINE	52° 14' 23"N	14° 50' 24"W	78,559.36ha	
	52° 7' 22"N	14° 45' 53"W		
	51° 54' 32"N	15° 7' 18"W		
	51° 49' 8"N	15° 6' 6"W		
	51° 41' 56"N	15° 10' 17"W		
	51° 56' 19"N	15° 21' 28"W		

Cód an Lárthreáin		Comhordanáidí		Achar
Limistéir faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta				
003002-	56° 23' 2"N	14° 2' 12"W	149,317.85ha	
SAC BHRUACH	56° 19' 5"N	13° 51' 46"W		
OIRDHEISCEART	55° 36' 0"N	14° 51' 0"W		
ROCAL	55° 45' 0"N	15° 0' 0"W		

