



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



NPWS Ref: Marine SACs 2012
(please quote in all correspondence)
The Secretary
North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council
c/o Bord Iascaigh Mhara
P.O. Box 12
Crofton Road

30th November 2012

Notice under Regulation 12 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, of the Minister's Intention to designate the Blackwater Bank (002953), the West Connacht Coast (002998) Hempton's Turbot Bank (002999), Rockabill to Dalkey Island (003000), Porcupine Bank Canyon (003001) and South East Rockall Bank (003002), as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

A Chara,

I wish to advise you that the European Union's Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires Member States to protect habitats and wildlife areas of European interest. The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan T.D., is responsible for ensuring that Ireland plays its part in protecting Europe's endangered habitats and species. To fulfil its obligations under the Directive, the Minister now proposes that the important areas of conservation interest listed above are to be designated as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

Designation Process

It is proposed to designate these sites as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in order to protect the variety of species and habitats present. These are new sites and it is the first time that these sites have been proposed for designation and advertised. They are now afforded full protection under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/11).

I enclose for your information a map and a formal notice of intention to designate this site as a SAC. This notification gives:

- Details as to why the site is of ecological interest
- A list of potentially harmful activities that should not now be undertaken without

- obtaining the prior consent of the Minister. (Activities Requiring Consent)
- Information on how to object to the proposed designation.

Activities Requiring Consent

You may operate a fisheries licence in those areas or have been issued with a licence from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources or the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. 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. However, other authorities are required to consult the National Parks and Wildlife Service before such consents, licences or permissions are issued or renewed.

Objections

Persons with an interest in the site or whose interest may potentially be affected by the designation of this site can lodge an objection. Details of the procedures for objections and appeals are included in the attached notification. All objections must be lodged within three months of advertisement of these proposals; therefore the deadline for receipt of objections is **Tuesday 5th March 2013**.

The enclosed map indicates co-ordinates and the boundary of the proposed SAC with the area hatched in a red diagonal line. Objections to designation can only be made on the area included in the SAC.

Marine interest details have been compiled from various sources, including records supplied by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. By their nature, records are not always fully up-to-date. Recent changes may not be fully reflected in such records. In addition, the names of deceased individuals may be recorded in such files. The National Parks and Wildlife Service does not wish to cause any distress to the relatives of deceased individuals and if any such distress is caused, it is sincerely regretted.

Should you have further queries with regard to this designation, please e-mail nature.conservation@ahg.gov.ie

Yours sincerely,



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