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SOUTH COAST - DESIGNATED MARITIME AREA PLAN (DMAP)

Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared by RPS on behalf of the DECC to inform the assessment of the South Coast-Designated Maritime Area Plan or 'draft SC-DMAP'.

The 2020 Programme for Government includes the objective that 5 Gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind generation will be installed by 2030. This target will contribute to the wider Government objectives of achieving 80% renewable electricity and a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the end of this decade.

It is anticipated that a large proportion of the 5 GW target will be achieved through the initial Phase One of offshore wind development in Ireland, which includes the first offshore wind auction to take place in Ireland under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS). Having procured just over 3 GW of offshore wind capacity, the results of this first offshore auction (known as ORESS 1), announced in June 2023, highlighted that additional offshore projects will be needed to meet 5 GW by the end of this decade, with this transition from Phase One to the longer term enduring offshore regime known as Offshore Wind Phase Two.

A new Policy Statement on the Framework for Phase Two Offshore Wind was approved by Government on 7 March 2023, which has provided clarity for all stakeholders regarding the development of offshore wind as Ireland moves to the enduring, plan led, offshore regime. The Phase Two policy includes:

- A focus on delivery of proven technologies i.e., fixed wind turbines;
- The requirement that all future offshore renewable energy (ORE) development must take place within Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAP), established according to provisions in the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act, 2021; and
- DMAPs in the first instance are to be aligned with onshore grid capacity. As EirGrid has indicated available onshore capacity for connection of offshore renewables off the south coast, this has become the focus of the first DMAP for ORE and for Ireland under the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF).

The SC-DMAP commenced as a DMAP Proposal being prepared by the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications (MECC) in his role as a designated Competent Authority (D) for ORE. The MECC was designated in this role under Section 20 of the MAP Act, 2021 by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (MLGH). After the President has signed the Gas (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023, Part 4 is commenced and Vesting Day Order under section 23 is completed, Section 27 of that Act will provide that, this designation as Competent Authority (D) will cease and the MECC will take on the role of Competent Authority (M). The work done to date on the SC-DMAP will be preserved and will be progressed by the MECC as Competent Authority (M) under Section 29 of the MAP Act, 2021.

The draft SC-DMAP specifies the geographical area proposed to be the subject of the DMAP. The proposed geographical area is approximately 8,813 square kilometres in size, extending from marine area stretching from the Administrative Boundary for local government areas on the South Coast bordering the northern boundary of the SC-DMAP area to the 80-metre depth contour and/or the edge of the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The draft SC-DMAP further specifies four broad Maritime Areas within this geographical area in which future fixed ORE development may take place subject to all necessary project level assessments and consents.

With reference to the legislative context summarised below, a Stage 1 – Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken with respect to the draft SC-DMAP and this concluded that the draft SC-DMAP:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Sites;
- Will include policy requirements in relation to the future development of offshore wind energy. In this respect, the draft SC-DMAP is considered as a tool for competent authorities as part of the development permissions process more broadly;
- Will directly inform development areas for offshore wind energy which may be in proximity to or within European sites;
- In applying guidance from the European Commission (2000), can be considered as a policy statement of the intention of DECC on offshore wind energy in the marine area; and

- It cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft SC-DMAP, by itself or in combination with other plans and projects, will have a significant effect on a European Site. This is due to the nature of the policy base which includes sectors and activities which have been identified as significant threats and pressures to the SCI and QI associated with a number of European sites.

With reference to Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish law, MECC made a screening determination that there was potential for likely significant effects (LSE) and Stage 2 of the AA process would be required to inform the AA determination on the draft SC-DMAP. This determination also aligns with the requirement in section 22(3) of the MAP Act 2021, that AA is to be carried out in relation to draft DMAP.

This NIS assesses, in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, whether the draft SC-DMAP, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, may adversely affect the integrity of any European site(s). The assessment has been carried out in accordance with the legal context outlined in **Section 1.1**.

1.1 Legislative Context

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as 'The Habitats Directive', provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 of the Directive provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of a European Union (EU)-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000 (hereafter referred to as 'European sites'). European sites comprise:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated for habitats, plants, and non-bird species, under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC); and
- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated for bird species and their habitats, under the Birds Directive (79/409/ECC as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC).

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive plays a crucial role in the management of the sites that make up the Natura 2000 network[1]. Articles 6(1) and 6(2) set out the need to identify conservation objectives and to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as disturbance of the species for which the sites have been designated. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites (Annex 1.1).

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

> *Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.*

Article 6(4) states:

> *If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [European] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.*

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (Planning and Development Act) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended). In the context of the draft SC-DMAP, the governing legislation is principally the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations and specifically Article 27 which sets out the duties of public authorities relating to nature conservation; and Article 42 which addresses AA. The MAP Act requires the draft DMAP to specify "*any proposed measures to avoid or mitigate any adverse*

[1] Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" EC 2018.

impact of the maritime usages referred to in paragraph (c) on protected sites, species or habitats,".[2] Section 33 of the MAP Act provides that the relevant competent authority shall, in the preparation of each draft DMAP, ensure that it does not contravene the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive or the SEA Directive.

1.2 Policy Context

1.2.1 Key International Instruments relevant to SC-DMAP

Since 2015, Ireland has been a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which frame national agendas and policies to 2030 (see **Figure 1-1**). The SDGs build on the UN Millennium Development Goals and have a broader agenda that applies to all counties. These goals are mirrored through EU strategies such as Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) which emphasise smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth.

Sustainability is at the heart of long-term planning therefore it is important that the SDGs are integrated into the Irish planning hierarchy from the top tier down.

Figure 1-1: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Source: United Nations)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages countries to develop national responses to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and incorporate them into planning and policy. The SC-DMAP contributes to Government's efforts to squarely incorporate relevant SDG's (set out below) into marine planning and policy. Of particular relevance to the draft SC-DMAP is the goal related to marine environment, Goal 14, Life Below Water, states: *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development:*

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

[2] Section 22(2)(g)

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

Goal 7, Affordable and Clean Energy is also relevant to the draft SC-DMAP that states: *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all:*

- *7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services*
- *7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix*

1.2.2 Key European Instruments relevant to SC-DMAP

At EU level, the **EU Marine Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU** sets out a legal requirement for member states to develop and implement a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) by 2021. The directive provides a framework for *"maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources*". The SC-DMAP will be established according to the legislative requirements provided for in the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and will form part of the National Marine Planning Framework.

At European level, the **EU's Atlantic Action Plan 2013-2020** set out practical steps to be taken in the four Member States with Atlantic coasts (Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain) and their outermost regions in order to boost the Atlantic Ocean Area's sustainable blue economy by 2020. The European Commission (EC) launched a successor to the plan in July 2020 – **Atlantic Action Plan 2.0** "An updated action plan for a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the European Union Atlantic area." It covers four pillars of: ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy; blue skills of the future and ocean literacy; marine renewable energy; and healthy ocean and resilient coasts. Under the third and fourth pillars are the environmental goals of: Goal 5: 'The promotion of carbon neutrality through marine renewable energy', Goal 6 'Stronger coastal resilience' and Goal 7 'The fight against marine pollution'.

The **Fit for 55 Package** comprises a set of proposals to revise and update EU legislation and includes new initiatives with the overall aim of ensuring that EU policies are in line with the Council and the European Parliament's climate goals of reducing net GHG emissions by at least 55% by 2030. It includes for an update to the **Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)** with new provisions such as extension to cover maritime emissions and a revision of rules applying to the aviation sector. The changes to the EU ETS have now been agreed under **Directive (EU) 2023/959** (amending Directive 2003/87/EC and Decision (EU) 2015/1814) and were to be implemented in national regulation by December 31, 2023, at the latest.

The Package also includes a suite of new rules, revisions and targets across many aspects, including: a social justice fund; new rules to increase the EU-level GHG emissions reduction target for 2030 from 29% to 40%; a provisional deal on new rules for decarbonised fuels in shipping via the **FuelEU** maritime initiative; new rules under the **Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR)**, which includes for charging stations to be installed every 60 km; revision of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III); new rules to accelerate energy efficiency and the energy performance of buildings (new buildings should be zero-emission by 2930 and existing buildings transformed into zero-emission buildings by 2050); and a proposal to revise the directive on the taxation of energy products and electricity.

The **Renewable Energy Directive [RED] EU 2023/2413 (RED III)** entered into force in November 2023 and sets a target of at least 42.5% for renewable energy, at EU-wide level, by 2030.

The **REPowerEU Plan** is focused on rapidly reducing the European Union's reliance on Russian fossil fuels by progressing the clean energy transition and fostering increased collaboration throughout and across Member States to create a more resilient European energy system. REPowerEU expands the 'Fit for 55' proposals by setting forward additional actions to save energy by reducing demand and consumption, diversify energy sources and supplies, accelerate fossil fuel substitution, and improve investment frameworks facilitating reforms, faster permitting, and innovation.

1.2.3 National and Regional Legislation, Plans and Programmes relevant to SC-DMAP

The **National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024** sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The **National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)** was published in 2021. This is a long-term strategy for the next 20 years which sits at the top of a hierarchy of plans and sectoral policies for the marine area and sets the groundwork for the development of the marine waters surrounding Ireland. It is anticipated that lower tier plans will be developed under future revisions of the NMPF which will articulate the geographic and spatial aspects of marine planning. Under the Planning and Development Act regional, and local coastal terrestrial plans must be consistent with the NMPF.

The draft SC-DMAP must specify the NMPF objectives which the DMAP will seek to attain or assist in the attainment of and be consistent with it. It should have regard, particularly to the Overarching Environmental Objectives in the NMPF on development in the marine and coastal area as they directly relate to the sectoral actives and are supportive of sustainable practices.

The **Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021** was enacted to regulate the maritime area. This is to be achieved through inter alia the proper implementation of **the NMPF**, the establishment of DMAPs, the establishment of the **Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)** and the issuance of **Maritime Area Consents (MACs)** and licenses. A key objective of the NMPF is to ensure that future developments in Ireland's maritime area take place in a sustainable and strategic way, with consideration for environmental protection and comprehensive opportunities for public engagement, most importantly including the engagement of local communities.

MARA's functions are set out in the MAP Act and its role includes assessing applications for MACs, which are required before developers of ORE and other projects in the maritime area can make a development permission application. It is also responsible for granting licences for certain activities in the maritime area.

The first **Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP I)** that was published in 2014 had set out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. The plan provided a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources. This non-statutory plan provides a mechanism to inform and coordinate policy and implementation across energy, environment and economic areas and thereby supporting the sustainable use of Ireland's offshore wind and ocean energy resources out to 2030, mostly through fixed-bottom wind turbines in relatively shallow waters of up to 70 metres off the east and southeast coasts. The draft OREDP II which underwent public consultation, was intended to provide a high-level framework for the long-term, sustainable and planned development of Ireland's immense wind, wave and tidal renewable energy resources.

Accelerating Ireland's Offshore Energy Programme: Policy Statement on the Framework for Phase Two Offshore Wind (the Phase 2 Policy Statement) was published in 2023. It supersedes an earlier Phase 2 Consultation Document and sets out an updated roadmap for Ireland to meet its target of 5GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030. The Phase 2 Policy Statement provided for the immediate transition to a 'plan-led' model for future offshore renewable energy (ORE) deployment by the State. The new plan-led approach to ORE was adopted by Government and approved by the Oireachtas in May 2023, as was the making of Ireland's first ORE DMAP off the South Coast.

The **National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)** recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.

The **Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015** facilitates the approval of plans for Ireland in relation to climate change to aid the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of 2050. In line with this objective, a national mitigation plan and national adaptation framework were required to be produced by the Minister to the Government for approval. The

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 further strengthens the governance framework on climate action, and through this Act, Ireland has:

- Set economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emission ceilings (SECs) for the periods 2021-25 and 2026-30, as well as a provisional carbon budget for the period 2031-2035;
- Established pathways to deliver the SECs, incorporating 26 $MtCO_2eq.$ in unallocated emissions savings for the second carbon budget period; and
- Defined a delivery approach through specific measures and actions to meet emissions ceilings, which are estimated to require €119bn in capital investment between 2022-2030.

The 2021 Act places on a statutory footing the national climate objective of achieving, by no later than 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable, and climate-neutral economy. The 2021 Amendment Act also replaced the 2015 Act's requirement for a national mitigation plan with a requirement for the preparation of an annual update to the Climate Action Plan and to prepare, not less frequently than once every five years, a national long term climate action strategy.

The **Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23)** is the second annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2019. This plan is the first to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and following the introduction, in 2022, of economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. There are six vital high impact sectors that are focused upon in this plan:

- Powering renewables
- Building better
- Transforming how we travel
- Making family farms more sustainable
- Greening business and enterprise

Under powering renewables, the plan aims to accelerate the delivery of offshore wind and facilitate at least 7GW of offshore wind by 2030 (with 2 GW earmarked for green hydrogen production).

The DECC is required to publish an update to the CAP annually. The **Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24)** will therefore form the latest update of the CAP, building upon the measures and actions of CAP23. The draft CAP24 at present outlines the actions required to 2035 and beyond to achieve the ambition of halving Ireland's GHG emissions by the end of the decade and aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050. The 2021 Act also requires local authorities to prepare **Local Authority Climate Action Pans (LACAPs)** and formal instruction was issued by the Minister of the DECC in February 2023 to all local authorities to prepare their plans, with guidelines prepared to assist Las in their preparation. Cork County Council[3] and Wexford County Council[4] published their first Climate Action Plans (2024-2029) in February 2024. Waterford City and County Council's Climate Action Plan was published in March 2024[5]. These plans will help ensure that the national climate objective can be achieved through all levels of the planning hierarchy, from the Climate Action Plan, down through the RSESs and Regional Renewable Electricity Strategies, and through the LACAPs.

The preparation of **National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP)** by EU Member States **was** introduced by the **Regulation on the governance of the energy union and climate action (EU) 2018/1999**. Ireland prepared its first **NECP 2021-2030** to incorporate all planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, and which collectively aim to deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-ETS greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Key objectives of the NECP are as follows:

- *Decarbonisation*: GHG emissions and removals: Reduce emissions from sectors outside the EU's Emissions Trading System by 30% (relative to 2005 levels) by 2030.

[3] Cork County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Available at: https://www.corkcoco.ie/sites/default/files/2024-02/cork-county-council-climate-action-plan-2024-2029.pdf

[4] Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2023-2029. Available at: https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/sites/default/files/content/Climate%20Action%20Plan%202024-2029%20English.pdf

[5] Waterford City and County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. Available at: https://www.waterfordcouncil.ie/app/uploads/2024/03/Waterford-Climate-Action-Plan-2024-2029.pdf

- *Decarbonisation - Renewable energy*: Ireland at the time established an objective of achieving a 34% share of renewable energy in energy consumption by 2030; Increase electricity generated from renewable sources to 70%; At least 3.5 GW of ORE; Up to 1.5 GW of grid scale solar energy; and Onshore wind capacity of up to 8.2 GW.
- *Energy efficiency*: Contribute towards the EU wide target of achieving at least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030; Saving obligations in accordance with Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED); Saving obligations in accordance with the requirements of Article 5 of the EED.
- *Energy Security*: Ireland is committed to maintaining the security of our energy system in the most cost-effective manner.
- *Internal Energy Market*: Continue to deepen the integration of IRL's wholesale electricity market, and its regulation, with the EU internal energy market (IEM), building on well-known ongoing plans, programmes and actions in this regard; Develop further interconnection to facilitate Ireland's 2030 target of 70% renewable electricity; Continue to align further IRL's retail electricity market, with the EU internal energy market; Continue to develop Ireland's natural gas market in line with European energy policy.
- *Research, innovation and competitiveness*: Ensure that the best scientific evidence and advice is available to underpin Government policy and support the objectives, policies and measures in Ireland's NECP; Given the level of Ireland's ambition regarding reduction of greenhouse gas emissions new technologies must be developed and deployed in the coming years.

The NECP is currently being revised as required by Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and the draft is published for public consultation. The draft updated-NECP recognises the establishment of the SC-DMAP as part of the Phase two offshore wind development. The draft updated Plan contains measures to *"support the ocean energy research, development and demonstration pathway for emerging marine technologies and associated test infrastructure"* as part of its objectives relating to the renewable energy.

The **Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF)**, currently under preparation, will aim to establish a nationally consistent and standardised approach to identify and designate key onshore renewable energy resources and development areas. It will help support a more equitable distribution of renewable electricity generating facilities using just transition principles, ensuring an appropriate spatial balance and distribution of onshore renewables, helping to foster and sustain public support.

EirGrid's Strategy 2020-25 is a strategy which is predominantly shaped by climate change and the transition of the electricity sector to low-carbon, renewable energy generation and transmission. The main aim of this strategy is to transform the power system for future generations by phasing out coal, peat and oil-based generation in the next decade and implementing new technologies that will allow the consumers to generate and store power and return any surplus to the grid.

Transmission and distribution of electricity impacts energy efficiency resulting in a percentage of lost power. Producing renewable electricity can be more advantageous if the retention of that energy is sustained as much as possible over various distances. These challenges can be attenuated by grid upgrades. EirGrid's **Transmission Development Plan 2021-2030** builds on their preceding policy, the Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022. Both of which support the continued development of a safe secure and reliable transmission system in Ireland and identifies, at a strategic level, key developments in the transmission system to take place over the next few years. One of its key strategy statements to ensure a balanced approach to grid development is consideration of all practical technology options.

While the increasing rollout of renewables is a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of the CAP, an expanded and upgraded grid that can support the ambition for high levels of renewable electricity generation is needed to support CAP measures.

Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050. This energy security package sets out a strategic approach to ensure a secure transition for Ireland's energy systems in line with its climate objectives. It considers lessons, in particular, from the disruption to European energy supplies following the invasion of Ukraine and the domestic capacity shortfall experienced in the electricity sector. Six key pillars of analysis underpin the overall response and recommendations which are presented in Energy Security in Ireland to 2030, including a public consultation, and a range of external reviews and analyses which are published alongside the Energy Security Package. A follow-up to the Energy Security Package will be published in 2030, and every five years thereafter, with implementation monitored by the Government's Energy Security Group.

1.3 Purpose of the Appropriate Assessment Process

The overall purpose of the AA process is to ensure that the draft SC-DMAP does not result in any adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites in view of their conservation objectives. This NIS has been prepared to inform the AA process having regard to the legislative requirements of EU and national law as outlined previously. The responsibility for carrying out the AA lies with the MECC. This NIS will inform the AA determination to be made by the MECC in respect of the draft SC-DMAP prior to the SC-DMAP being made.

1.4 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

Stage 1: Screening / Test of Significance: This process identifies whether the proposed plan / project is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a European site(s) and identifies whether the plan / project is likely to have significant impacts on a European site(s) either alone or in combination with other plans / projects. The output from this stage is a determination of not likely to have significant effects, likely to have significant effects, or possibility of significant effects. Plans and projects that are considered not likely to have significant effects beyond reasonable scientific doubt can be processed without reference to the subsequent steps of Article 6(3).

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment: This stage considers the impact of the proposed plan/project on the integrity of a European site(s), either alone or in combination with other plans / projects, with respect to: (i) the site's conservation objectives; and (ii) the site's structure, function, and its overall integrity. The output from this stage is an NIS. This document must include sufficient information to enable the competent authority to carry out the appropriate assessment and ascertain whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. If the assessment is negative, i.e., adverse effects on the integrity of a site cannot be excluded despite incorporation of measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate the adverse effects, then the process must consider alternatives (Stage 3).

Stage 3: Procedure under Article 6(4): This stage is undertaken when it cannot be determined that a plan / project will not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site. Such plans or projects may only be approved by the competent authorities if a derogation is sought in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(4). These provisions entail three key requirements that must be met and documented.

1. Alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan / project have been considered and it can be demonstrated that the alternative put forward for approval is the least damaging for habitats and species and for the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, and that no other feasible alternative exists that would not adversely affect the integrity of the site.
2. There are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI), including 'those of a social or economic nature'.
3. All compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected are taken.

1.5 Overlap with the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft SC-DMAP

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft SC-DMAP is being carried out concurrently with the preparation of the NIS. The purpose of the SEA is to evaluate at an early stage, the range of environmental consequences that may occur as a result of implementing the draft SC-DMAP and to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the perceived or actual environmental impacts of the draft SC-DMAP. There is a degree of overlap between the requirements of the SEA and AA and, in accordance with best practice, an integrated process of data sharing has been carried out, such as sharing of baseline data and mapping of European sites, sharing of potential ecological effects of the draft SC-DMAP on European sites and clarification on more technical aspects of the draft SC-DMAP. These processes together have informed and shaped the development of the draft SC-DMAP.

It is also noted that there are issues relevant to the Habitats Directive that are not strictly related to AA, including Article 10 and 12 of the Directive. In these cases, the issues have been brought forward to the biodiversity, flora and fauna section of the SEA and have been addressed in that context as part of the wider environmental assessments informing the draft SC-DMAP.

1.6 Consultation

An earlier SC-DMAP Proposal, published in July 2023, was subject to a comprehensive nine and half week non-statutory public consultation during August to October 2023. The outcome of this consultation, alongside a process of environmental analysis and a technical assessment of the costs associated with development of fixed offshore wind off the South Coast has subsequently led to the development of the draft SC-DMAP. The public consultation period included several opportunities for the public to engage both in-person and online. Consultation was facilitated through six public drop-in meetings, one-to-one consultation meetings, two regional workshops, two webinars and one hybrid online / in-person ORE sector seminar.

Additionally, a separate consultation, driven by the mandatory requirements under the SEA Directive, as transposed by Irish law, was undertaken on the draft SC-DMAP, to consult in relation to SEA screening and scoping. However, it is noted that from the outset, the opportunity has been taken to consult with stakeholders in relation to the AA processes as it relates to the draft SC-DMAP.

The SEA Scoping Report was provided to the defined statutory bodies for SEA in Ireland and other stakeholders, and the scoping and non-statutory consultation for the draft SC-DMAP was completed in August 2023. This included reference to the parallel and integrated AA process. In recognition of the potential for transboundary effects, contact was also initiated at scoping stage with the relevant representatives in Northern Ireland.

All relevant issues raised, and responses received as part of the scoping consultation have been taken into account in the preparation of the NIS. **Table 1-1** is a summary of the consultation responses of relevance to the AA:

Table 1-1: Scoping Responses

Consultee	Summary of Points Raised
Statutory Consultee(s)	
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	It should be clarified whether it is proposed to exclude the location of offshore renewable devices in Natura 2000 sites or sites or areas protected under other national or international instruments from development. The requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive should be fully integrated into the environmental assessment.

2 CONTENTS AND MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE DRAFT SC-DMAP

This section provides an overview of the draft SC-DMAP and sets out the spatial and policy provisions proposed for ORE in the SC-DMAP Proposal Area which have been subject to the SEA process as documented in this report. It is to note that ORE development which is the subject of the draft SC- DMAP exclusively relates to fixed offshore wind (OW) technology (and this is referred to as ORE in the draft SC-DMAP). The assessment of draft SC-DMAP policies presented in this report, therefore, focuses on potential development of fixed OW within SC-DMAP area.

2.1 Scope and Function of the Draft SC-DMAP

The first DMAP for ORE is located off the south coast of Ireland and identifies four broad areas within which future fixed offshore wind development will be focussed. These areas, referred to as Maritime Areas A-D in the draft SC-DMAP, have been identified through a refinement of the initial SC-DMAP Proposal area that has taken place through a process of public engagement and consultation, environmental impact assessments and other analysis, to assess their potential suitability for fixed offshore wind development. The final SC-DMAP will aim to contribute to achieving the Government decarbonisation objectives, through the sustainable development of fixed offshore wind, in the context of objectives of the NMPF regarding ORE, offshore electricity transmission system and ocean health.

It is intended that a development with an installed capacity of approximately 900 MW will be located within Maritime Area A which is targeted for deployment by 2030 or as soon as possible thereafter, to contribute to the Government's 5 GW by 2030 ORE target. However, it is intended that further deployments will take place within the remaining three Maritime Areas identified in the draft SC-DMAP area over the next decade through an orderly, strategic, and managed process of development. In line with the overarching EU and national legislative and policy frameworks, the process of making the draft SC-DMAP is being delivered in full consideration for the protection of marine environment and biodiversity. This process will be, informed by public engagement, stakeholder participation and environmental assessment.

2.2 Contents of the Draft SC-DMAP

Section 22 of the MAP Act 2021, requires that the draft SC-DMAP include the following information:

(a) the objectives of the National Marine Planning Framework that it is proposed that the DMAP will seek to attain or assist in the attainment of,

(b) the geographical or sectoral areas, or both, of the maritime area proposed to be the subject of the DMAP,

(c) the proposed extent of the maritime area (represented spatially or otherwise) proposed to be utilised by the maritime usages the subject of the DMAP,

(d) particulars of the maritime usages referred to in paragraph (c),

(e) any prohibitions or restrictions proposed to be imposed on the maritime usages referred to in paragraph (c),

(f) any proposed colocation or coexistence of the maritime usages referred to in paragraph (c),

(g) any proposed measures to avoid or mitigate any adverse impact of the maritime usages referred to in paragraph (c) on protected sites, species, or habitats,

(h) any proposals to –

i. avoid or mitigate any potentially adverse effect on the environment of the undertaking of one or more than one of the maritime usages referred to in paragraph (c), or

ii. benefit the environment or protected sites taking into account the potential effect on the environment of the undertaking of one or more than one of the maritime usages referred to in paragraph (c),

and

(i). any proposals to avoid or mitigate any potentially adverse impact on other lawful users of the maritime area of the undertaking of one or more than one of the maritime usages referred to in paragraph (c)."

An outline of the proposed contents of the draft SC-DMAP is provided in **Table 2-1** below.

Table 2-1: Contents of Draft SC-DMAP

Section	Content
The SC-DMAP	Provides detailed introduction to SC-DMAP. Sets out the Governments vision for DMAPs and the SC-DMAP in particular, in the context of OSW and Ireland's climate commitments. Explains how the vision will be achieved and what will happen if it is not achieved.
NMPF Objectives	Outlines how the NMPF was considered during the development of SC-DMAP
Draft DMAP Geographical Area for Offshore Wind Developments - Plan-Led ORE Development and the South Coast DMAP - Fixed Offshore Wind in the Irish Celtic Sea - Fixed Offshore Wind Technology - Draft DMAP Maritime Areas for Fixed Offshore Wind Deployment	Establishes the background and proposal to give effect to the decision by Government and the Oireachtas in 2023 that as part of new national plan-led regime for ORE, all post Phase One offshore wind developments in Ireland should be located within marine areas identified for this purpose by Government through the establishment of DMAPs. Identifies marine areas.
Plan Level Measures	Provides policy objectives for activities and developments proposed in the SC-DMAP related to offshore wind development and associated infrastructure, where required, to future applications and assessments for the award of MACs and development permissions by relevant competent authorities.
Implementation, Governance and Monitoring	This chapter outlines the implementation and governance associated with the SC-DMAP.
Marine Environment and Biodiversity	Describes actions to meet the requirements of section 22 of the MAP Act relating to protected sites and environmental protection. Commits to continued application of existing NMPF environmental policies and legislative requirements. Addresses issues of protected sites and species, including future MPA.
Coexistence - Co-existence with Aquaculture, Seafood and Fisheries - Co-existence with Tourism and Recreation - Co-existence with Telecommunications - Co-existence with Marine Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	Sets out commitment to co-existence as part of SC-DMAP. Optimal site locations for offshore wind development are identified within which future offshore windfarms will be required to co-exist with existing maritime uses and activities. The implementation of the sector-specific Policy Objectives within the SC-DMAP will facilitate and promote this coexistence particularly in relation to telecoms, tourism and fisheries.

Section	Content
Land and Sea Interactions	The MSP Directive and the MAP Act 2021 requires land and sea interaction to be taken into consideration in member states maritime spatial plans. This chapter includes the objectives to achieve this.
Ports and Harbours	Similarly, accelerated deployment of offshore wind generation in Ireland, and the achievement of Government's wider renewable energy and decarbonisation objectives will be requiring timely development of appropriate national and regional port infrastructure. This chapter includes the objectives to achieve this.
Shipping	This chapter includes objectives in relation to shipping, by seeking to minimise impact on any shipping lanes or shipping navigation for ports and harbours as a result of surveying construction and operation of offshore renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure in the SC-DMAP.
Transmission System Infrastructure	The realisation of Ireland's considerable ORE resource will require the establishment of an increasingly sophisticated integrated network of offshore and onshore electricity transmission infrastructure. This chapter includes the objectives to support this.
Economic and Employment Growth Potential	Implementation of the SC-DMAP is expected to generate significant associated economic and employment opportunities. This will be provided through the substantial inward investment in regional and local coastal community economies associated with the establishment of a transparent pipeline of future offshore wind developments off the South Coast. This chapter includes the objectives to support this.
Commitment to On-going Local and Regional Community Engagement.	Sets out commitment to continued comprehensive and regular engagement by Government, EirGrid and developers of proposed offshore wind and offshore transmission infrastructure with regional and local communities, as well as other key stakeholders, including fishers.

3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1 Guidance Documents on AA

The AA requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive follow a sequential approach as outlined in the following legislation, guidance documents and Departmental Circulars, namely:

European and National Legislation

- Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, codified version (also known as the 'Birds Directive').
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (also known as the 'Habitats Directive').
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended; and
- Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Guidance

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (December 2009, revised February 2010).
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission (2021);
- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle. European Commission (2000).
- EC study on evaluating and improving permitting procedures related to Natura 2000 requirements under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission (2013).
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the concepts of: Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence, Opinion of the Commission European Commission (2007/2012).
- Guidance document on the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in estuaries and coastal zones with particular attention to port development and dredging, European Commission (2011).
- The strict protection of animal species Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC' European Commission (February 2007).
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats, Version EUR 28, European Commission (April 2013).
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC European Commission (updated 2018).
- Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). (September 2018, updated April 2022).
- Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021).
- Marine Natura Impacts Statements in Irish Special Areas of Conservation. A Working Document. NPWS of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (April 2012).
- Guidance for Public authorities on the Application of Articles 12 and 16 of the EU Habitats Directive to development/works undertaken by or on behalf of a Public Authority, National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) (2021).

- Guidance on the Strict Protection of Certain Animal and Plant Species under the Habitats Directive in Ireland, NPWS/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (2021).
- National Guidelines for Offshore Renewable Energy development from M127 in Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC- Article 17 update to Ireland's Marine Strategy Part 3: Programme of Measures (Article 13).

Departmental/NPWS Circulars

- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10, DEHLG (2010).
- Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes – Protection of Natural Heritage and National Monuments, Circular L8/08 (September 2008).
- Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans. Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (February 2008).

3.2 Guiding Principles on Case Law

Over time legal interpretation has been sought on the practical application of the legislation concerning AA as some terminology has been found to be unclear. European and national case law has clarified a number of issues and some aspects of the published guidance documents have been superseded by case law. Case law has been considered in the preparation of the NIS of the draft SC-DMAP.

3.3 Information Sources Consulted

The following general sources of information have been consulted for background environmental information. Information was accessed over Q3 and Q4 of 2023 and Q2 of 2024.

- Datasets provided by the Marine Institute: Ireland's Marine Atlas – https://atlas.marine.ie/;
- Data and information provided by Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Plan Team;
- Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government National Marine Planning Framework Baseline Report;
- Department of Housing, Planning, Local Government– online land use mapping www.myplan.ie/en/index.html;
- National Marine Planning Framework;
- GeoHive online mapping http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html;
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland – online mapping and aerial photography www.osi.ie;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – online European site information www.npws.ie;
- European Environmental Agency – online European species information https://eunis.eea.europa.eu/species.jsp
- European Environmental Agency – online European site information https://eunis.eea.europa.eu/sites.jsp ;
- Ireland's Article 17 Reports 2019, National Parks and Wildlife Service;
- Ireland's Article 12 submission to the EU Commission on the *Status and Trends of Bird Species (2008-2012)*;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – ENVision maps www.epa.ie;
- CORINE (Co-Ordinated Information on the Environment) data series was established by the European Community (EC) www.epa.ie/soilandbiodiversity/soils/land/corine/;
- Information on River Basin Districts – www.wfdireland.ie;

- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) – geology, soils and hydrogeology www.gsi.ie;
- *Format for a Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000* www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/PAF-IE-2014.pdf;
- Irelands National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021 (DCHG, 2017);
- Irelands 4th National Biodiversity Plan 2023-2027[6]*;* and
- INFOMAR https://www.infomar.ie.

3.4 Impact Prediction

The methodology for the assessment of impacts is derived from the *Assessment of Plans and Projects in relation to Natura 2000 Sites* (EC, 2021)[7]. When describing changes/activities and impacts on ecosystem structure and function, the types of impacts that are commonly presented and which must be considered during all phases (preparation, construction, operation and, where relevant, decommissioning or reconditioning) include:

- Direct and indirect effects;
- Temporary or permanent effects;
- Short and long-term effects; and
- Cumulative effects.

A "source-pathway-receptor" approach has been applied for this assessment. The **source** relates to the actions outlined in the draft SC-DMAP which have the potential to adversely affect European sites, e.g., infrastructure development and alternative resource viability. The **pathways** relate to how implementation of the draft SC-DMAP can potentially impact European sites, e.g., habitat loss/ fragmentation, disturbance to species, impacts to water quality. The **receptor** is the Natura 2000 Network, potentially including those transboundary sites for which there is a pathway of connectivity as a result of the implementation of the draft SC-DMAP.

3.5 Aspects of Draft SC-DMAP to be Assessed

Aspects of the draft SC-DMAP policies and their implementation for the general environment and ORE activity were considered in this assessment. **Table 3-1** sets out the aspects of the draft SC-DMAP and identifies those to be assessed as part of this NIS and the rationale for their assessment.

Table 3-1: Elements of Draft SC-DMAP Assessed in the NIS

Section	Content	Suitable for Assessment?
The SC-DMAP	Provides detailed introduction to SC-DMAP. Sets out the Governments vision for DMAPs and the SC-DMAP in particular, in the context of OSW and Ireland's climate commitments. Explains how the vision will be achieved and what will happen if it is not achieved.	No – visionary statement and background information

[6] Available online at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/93973-irelands-4th-national-biodiversity-action-plan-20232030/ Accessed March 2024.

[7] Assessment of plans and Projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites; Methodological Guidance on the Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission

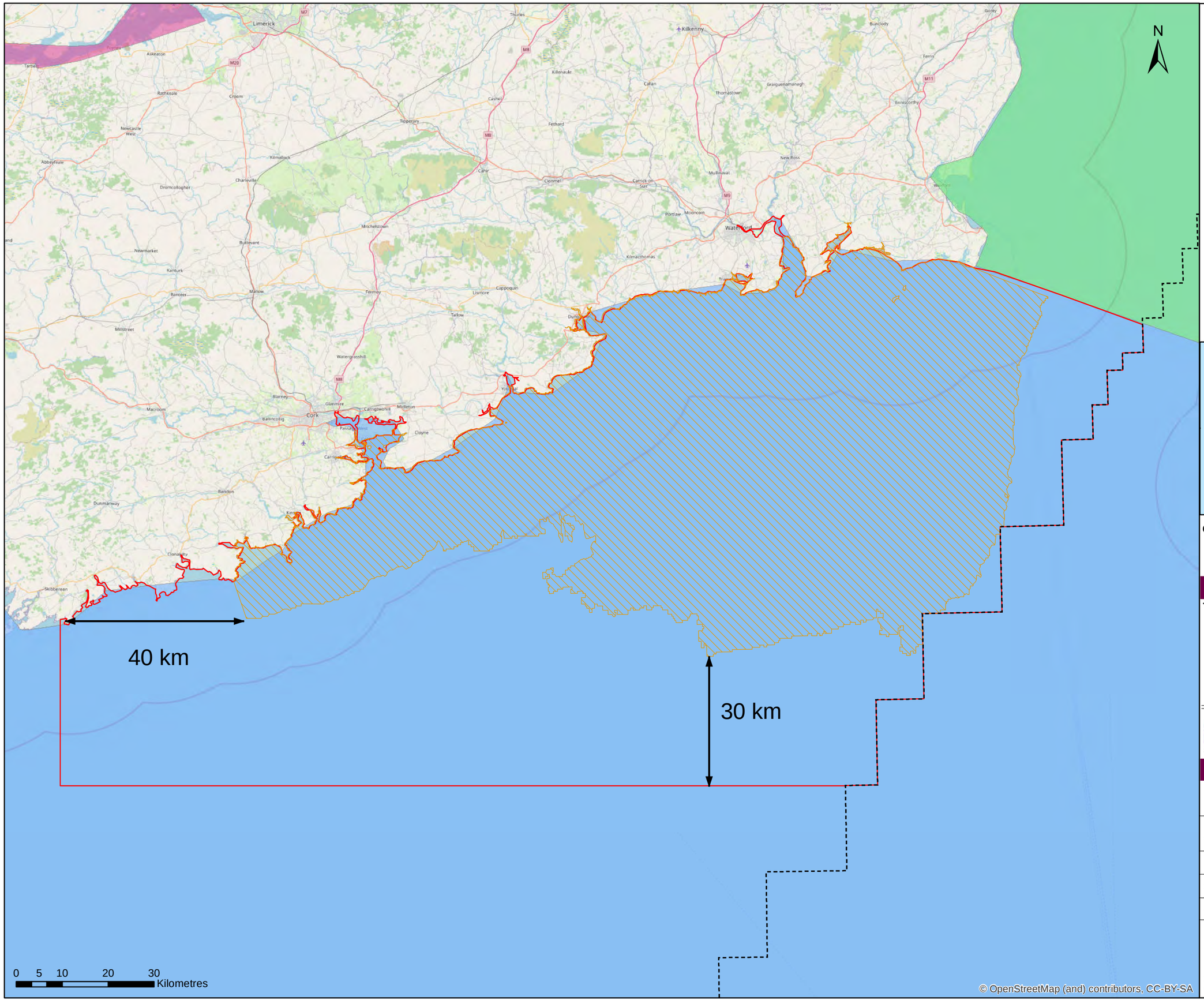
Section	Content	Suitable for Assessment?
NMPF Objectives	Outlines how the NMPF was considered during the development of SC-DMAP	No – Outlines the consideration given to NMPF
Draft DMAP Geographical Area for Offshore Wind Developments - Plan-Led ORE Development and the South Coast DMAP - Fixed Offshore Wind in the Irish Celtic Sea - Fixed Offshore Wind Technology - Draft DMAP Maritime Areas for Fixed Offshore Wind Deployment	Establishes the background and proposal to give effect to the decision by Government and the Oireachtas in 2023 that as part of new national plan-led regime for ORE, all post Phase One offshore wind developments in Ireland should be located within marine areas identified for this purpose by Government through the establishment of DMAPs. Identifies marine areas.	Yes- Policy Objectives
Plan Level Measures	Provides policy objectives for activities and developments proposed in the SC-DMAP related to offshore wind development and associated infrastructure, where required, to future applications and assessments for the award of MACs and development permissions by relevant competent authorities.	Yes-Policy Objectives
Implementation, Governance and Monitoring	This chapter outlines the implementation and governance associated with the SC-DMAP.	Yes- Policy objectives, governance arrangements
Marine Environment and Biodiversity	Describes actions to meet the requirements of section 22 of the MAP Act relating to protected sites and environmental protection. Commits to continued application of existing NMPF environmental policies and legislative requirements. Addresses issues of protected sites and species, including future MPA.	Yes- Policy Objectives
Coexistence - Co-existence with Aquaculture, Seafood and Fisheries - Co-existence with Tourism and Recreation - Co-existence with Telecommunications - Co-existence with Marine Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	Sets out commitment to co-existence as part of SC-DMAP. Optimal site locations for offshore wind development are identified within which future offshore windfarms will be required to co-exist with existing maritime uses and activities. The implementation of the sector-specific Policy Objectives within the SC-DMAP will facilitate and promote this coexistence particularly in relation to telecoms, tourism and fisheries.	Yes- Policy Objectives

Section	Content	Suitable for Assessment?
Land and Sea Interactions	The MSP Directive and the MAP Act 2021 requires land and sea interaction to be taken into consideration in member states maritime spatial plans. This chapter includes the objectives to achieve this.	Yes-Policy Objectives
Ports and Harbours	Similarly, accelerated deployment of offshore wind generation in Ireland, and the achievement of Government's wider renewable energy and decarbonisation objectives will be requiring timely development of appropriate national and regional port infrastructure. This chapter includes the objectives to achieve this.	Yes- Policy Objectives
Shipping	This chapter includes objectives in relation to shipping, by seeking to minimise impact on any shipping lanes or shipping navigation for ports and harbours as a result of surveying construction and operation of offshore renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure in the SC-DMAP.	Yes- Policy Objectives
Transmission System Infrastructure	The realisation of Ireland's considerable ORE resource will require the establishment of an increasingly sophisticated integrated network of offshore and onshore electricity transmission infrastructure. This chapter includes the objectives to support this.	Yes- Policy Objectives
Economic and Employment Growth Potential	Implementation of the SC-DMAP is expected to generate significant associated economic and employment opportunities. This will be provided through the substantial inward investment in regional and local coastal community economies associated with the establishment of a transparent pipeline of future offshore wind developments off the South Coast. This chapter includes the objectives to support this.	Yes- Policy Objectives
Commitment to On-going Local and Regional Community Engagement.	Sets out commitment to continued comprehensive and regular engagement by Government, EirGrid and developers of proposed offshore wind and offshore transmission infrastructure with regional and local communities, as well as other key stakeholders, including fishers.	Yes- Policy Objectives

4 OVERVIEW OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Defined Study Area

The initial starting point for the Study Area was the geographical area of the SC-DMAP Proposal. This was considered in the context of the technical requirement for array areas and cable routes (inter-array and export cables) and also zones that may be outside the SC-DMAP Proposal Area but could nonetheless influence the design or placement of project components within the draft SC-DMAP area in the future. With this in mind, the defined Study Area was determined to extend to the North Celtic Sea - South Irish Sea boundary and to the south-east European Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary limits. No specific boundary was followed for the south and west regions, however these were expanded 30 km to the south and a further 40km to the westernmost edge from the SC-DMAP Proposal Area, to ensure constraints that could indirectly influence the proposal area were considered. This is consistent with the study area considered in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SC-DMAP Study Area as identified for the environmental constraints' identification is shown in **Figure 4-1**.

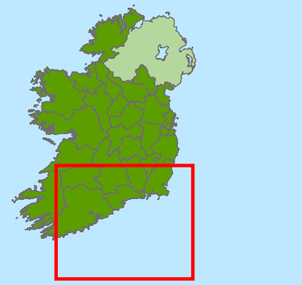


Legend

- Exclusive Economic Zone
- DMAP Proposal Boundary
- Study Area Wider DMAP

World Seas Ireland

- Celtic Sea
- Irish Sea and St. George's Channel
- North Atlantic Ocean



Client

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

South Coast DMAP

Title

Study Area in relation to Draft SC-DMAP

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4.2 Identification of European Sites and Zone of Influence

In Ireland, European sites comprise of SACs (or cSACs if in process of designation) and SPAs (or pSPA if in process of designation). SACs (and cSAC) are concerned with the protection of specific Qualifying interests (QI) and SPAs (and pSPA) are concerned with the protection of specific Special Conservation Interests (SCI). These European sites form part of the pan-European network of such designations across the Member States of the European Union; known as the Natura 2000 network. The UK is no longer a Member State of the European Union and therefore its former European sites no longer form part of the Natura 2000 network. Accordingly, any potential implications of the draft SC-DMAP for those sites are not the subject of this Appropriate Assessment of the draft SC-DMAP for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. Wider biodiversity issues, including any potential transboundary issues for UK designated sites, are considered as relevant as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft SC-DMAP.

The screening stage requires the identification of the sites within the Natura 2000 Network which are likely to be significantly affected (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) by the policies of the draft SC-DMAP. To identify these sites, a suitably precautionary "zone of influence" is applied to identify the sites which are considered at the screening stage. The zone of influence is the area(s) over which QIs and SCIs of sites may be affected by environmental changes resulting from the draft SC-DMAP.

In identifying the Zone of Influence for the draft SC-DMAP a number of considerations were taken into account. These included the sub-national and strategic nature of the plan; the policies of the plan, the likely environmental changes resulting from the policies, the QIs and SCIs likely to affected by these environmental changes, the ecological requirements of the QIs/SCIs (based on available evidence/knowledge) and the sites which support these QIs/SCIs. Defining the Zone of Influence also confirms the sites which are screened out of the assessment (*i.e.* those sites unlikely to be significantly affected by the draft SC-DMAP either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). In identifying the zones of influence, a precautionary approach has been adopted.

In identifying the Zone of Influence and in addition to considering the marine environment, consideration was also given to onshore sites which support QIs/SCIs which are dependent in whole or in part on the marine habitats and species as part of their ecological requirements (*e.g.* dependence of freshwater pearl mussel on diadromous fish such as Atlantic salmon).

The Zone of Influence identified for the draft SC-DMAP therefore has been defined through applying a "rule-based" approach applying the "rules" detailed below. A European site can be identified as relevant to the assessment if one or more of the following "rules" are applicable to that European site:

- **The SC-DMAP Study Area**. All Natura 2000 sites within the SC-DMAP Study Area are considered (**Appendix B Figure 1**). These sites include 17 SACs which are listed in **Appendix B Table 1** and 22 SPAs which are listed in **Appendix C Table 1**.

- **5km Inland Buffer**. Activities supported by the plan in the marine environment could result in environmental changes which affect the QIs and SCIs of inland terrestrial (including freshwater) Natura 2000 sites either directly or indirectly. A general 5km inland buffer of the Study Area provides a suitably precautionary basis for considering the environmental changes as a result of the activities supported by the plan which could affect the QIs and SCIs of inland terrestrial Natura 2000 sites. With respect to the application of this "rule", 20 SACs which are listed in **Appendix B Table 1** and 21 SPAs which are listed in **Appendix C Table 1** have been identified.

- **50km Marine Buffer around the SC-DMAP Study Area**. Activities supported by the plan could result in environmental changes beyond the boundary of the SC-DMAP Study Area which could affect QIs and SCIs of marine Natura 2000 sites beyond the SC-DMAP Study area. The draft SC-DMAP is a marine plan, which if made will form part of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF). The NIS assessing the NMPF used a general 50km marine buffer as a precautionary Zone of Influence to take account of potential changes and the buffer use consistent with national marine plans[8]. As such, this NIS for draft SC-DMAP will adopt this approach and use the 50km general Marine buffer around the SC-DMAP Study Area; supplemented by species-specific "rules" detailed below. With respect to the application of the general 50km marine buffer, 34 SACs which are listed in **Appendix B Table 1**

[8] Welsh Government (November 2019) *Habitat Regulation Assessment – Welsh National Marine Plan*.

and 26 SPAs which are listed in **Appendix C Table 1** have been identified. Transboundary effects were considered, however there are no such Natura 2000 sites within other Member States within this 50km marine buffer zone.

- **Otters.** Otters are a QI of 45 SACs in Ireland which include coastal or marine sites as well as inland sites. Most of the inland sites are river SACs that discharge to the marine environment. The majority of the otter population within these sites will be primarily associated with inland areas so not typically exposed to the direct effects of marine activities such as those the subject of the draft SC-DMAP. Typically, otters utilising predominantly freshwater habitats typically have home ranges of 20-30km whilst more coastal/marine otters usually have much smaller home ranges. Some individuals within a population may have home ranges which straddle the marine and freshwater environment; with even more marine based otters being dependent on having access to freshwater to clean salt from their fur. For the purposes of the draft SC-DMAP, and mindful of the above, a 10km inland buffer of the Study Area has been used to identify any SACs where otters are a QI and which could have populations which straddle the marine and freshwater environment (**Appendix B Figure 4**). This buffer is consistent with the approach of the NIS for the NMPF. With respect to the application of this "rule", four SACs which are listed in **Appendix B Table 1** have been identified**.**

- **Anadromous Fish (plus Freshwater Pearl Mussel).** Diadromous fish consist of anadromous fish, i.e. fish that spawn in freshwater and spend most of their lives at sea, and catadromous fish, i.e. fish that spawn at sea and spend most of their lives in freshwater. Anadromous fish which could be affected by the draft SC-DMAP include Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar,* twaite shad *Alosa fallax fallax,* sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* and river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*. In addition, given the dependence on freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* and Nore pearl mussel *Margaritifera durrovensis* on salmonids for part of its lifecycle, any effect on Atlantic salmon will also affect, indirectly, populations of pearl mussels. The movements of anadromous fish when away from their natal rivers are not well understood. However, diadromous will have movements within and through the SC-DMAP Study Area as part of their lifecycle as they move to/from natal areas both in Ireland and the western areas of the United Kingdom. The Zone of Influence with respect to anadromous fish therefore includes all SACs in the Republic of Ireland where anadromous fish or pearl mussel are identified as QIs (**Appendix B Figure 5**). With respect to the application of this "rule", 32 SACs listed in **Appendix B Table 1** have been identified.

- **Cetaceans:** Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* and bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* are listed as Annex II cetacean species. As their range is large, and therefore difficult to assign a Zone of Influence (ZoI), Management Units (MUs) have been considered as an appropriate means to provide an indication of the spatial scales at which impacts should be assessed for cetacean species. European sites with harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin as qualifying interests located within their appropriate Management Units (MUs) where these MUs overlap with the geographical area of the SC-DMAP proposal were considered (**Appendix B Figure 6**). The MU which was selected for the harbour porpoise was the Celtic and Irish Seas (CIS), and the MUs for the bottlenose dolphin were the Irish Sea (IS) and Offshore Channel, Celtic Sea and South-West England (OCSW). With respect to the application of this "rule", 14 Irish SACs and 25 French SACs listed in **Appendix B Table 1** have been identified.

- **Pinnipeds:** Harbour seal and grey seal are listed as Annex II pinniped species. The range for harbour seals and grey seals is 50 km and 100 km, respectively (SCOS, 2021)[9]. On a precautionary basis, and with reference to known ranges, any European Sites within 100 km of the proposed SC-DMAP Study Area where either species were QI species were identified. With respect to the application of this "rule", five SACs have been identified (**Appendix B Table 1, Appendix B Figure 7**); all of which are within Irish marine waters, and none are transboundary European sites.

- **Bats:** In relation to bats, the lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* is the only Annex II bat species resident in Ireland. Evidence for this species in the UK indicates that the core foraging area

[9]SCOS (2021). Scientific Advice on Matters related to the Management of Seal Populations: 2021 Available at: SCOS-2021.pdf (st-andrews.ac.uk) Accessed August 2023.

associated with a maternity roost is less than 5 km[10]. However, it does migrate from summer to winter roosts over significantly larger distances (e.g., 20 to 30 km). There is no evidence of it using the marine environment for foraging, commuting or migration (including transboundary migration). Typically, it is dependent on suitable terrestrial habitat (hedgerows and grazed farmland) for foraging, commuting and migrating. Based on their known ecology, the lesser horseshoe bat is considered to be low to negligible risk and therefore the ZoI was restricted to within the 5km inland buffer on the SC-DMAP Study Area. No European sites designated for the lesser horseshoe bat are located within this ZoI.

While it is understood that some bat species undertake seasonal migrations within Ireland, due to a lack of scientific studies, the bat migration patterns within and to/from Ireland is not understood or significantly researched. Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI) have records of the Annex II greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* in Ireland, which is not considered resident species. This species is likely to be vagrant since there is no evidence of additional specimens or resident populations of the species in Ireland, or no evidence of regular migrations to Ireland (BCI, 2023)[11]. On the basis that this species is believed to be vagrant, this species has not been considered further in the AA Screening on a transboundary basis.

- **Irish wintering, breeding and residential SCI Birds –** given the lack of a complete and cohesive data set on the foraging ranges of Irish wintering, breeding and residential SCI birds at inland, coastal and marine sites, based on the precautionary principle, all Irish SPAs classified for wintering, breeding and residential SCI birds are screened in (SPAs listed in **Appendix C Table 1** and shown in **Appendix C Figure 1**).

- **European migrating SCI Birds** – migrating birds will often gather in large flocks on a 'staging ground' before flying. These grounds can be north or south of their final destination, e.g., common terns breeding on Rockabill Island can fly north to Dundalk Bay, staging there, before flying south as a flock to western and southern Africa. Migrating birds are known to make stop offs along route (potentially bringing in a connection with the wider Natura 2000 site network). Birds born within the same SPA can winter in different countries. There is no buffer or grouping that can be applied here with any degree of certainty, and as such, all migratory SCI birds, in both and Irish and wider European context are to be screened in.

- **Foraging pelagic seabird SCIs -** In identifying the ZoI for pelagic seabirds a proportional and precautionary approach has been adopted. Defining the ZoI with respect to pelagic seabirds is difficult due to the complexities of their seasonal migrations and behaviours, which for some species extend well beyond Irish marine waters (Power *et al.,* 2021)[12]. All Irish SPAs classified for foraging pelagic seabird SCI birds are screened in (SPAs listed in **Appendix C Table 1** and shown in **Appendix C Figure 1**). The maximum foraging ranges of all birds, with the exception of eight species fall within this ZoI; as summarised in **Table 4–1**.

Table 4-1: Species with mean maximum foraging ranges ranging outside of Irish Waters

Common name	Latin name	Mean Maximum Foraging Range (km)
Lesser black-backed gull	*Laurus fuscus*	127.0
Atlantic puffin	*Fratercula arctica*	137.1
Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	156.1
Northern gannet	*Morus bassanus*	316.2
Storm petrel	*Hydrobates pelagicus*	336.0
Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	542.3

[10] North Somerset Council *et al*. (March 2019) *North Somerset and Mendips Bats SAC – Guidance on Development (*ver. 2.1)

[11] BCI (2023). Bat species in Ireland. Available at Species - Bat Conservation Ireland Accessed August 2023.

[12] Power, A., McDonnell, P., Tierney, D. (2021). Estimated foraging ranges of the breeding seabirds of Ireland's marine Special Protected Area network.

Common name	Latin name	Mean Maximum Foraging Range (km)
Leach's storm-petrel	*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*	657.0
Manx shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	1346.8

Appendix B and C summarises the SACs and the SPAs identified within the ZoI which are used for assessing the draft SC-DMAP. As noted above, previously identified pelagic seabirds (**Table 4-1**) and all migratory SCI birds, including in the wider European context which have the potential to occur in the draft SC-DMAP area are also to be screened in.

It is acknowledged that the number of European sites designated, and their boundaries, are subject to change over time and must therefore be verified on an ongoing basis. In addition, any project within the SC-DMAP area will have to identify their own project-specific zones of influence based on inter alia specific information regarding those projects; including with respect to project-specific survey information and details of the project (*e.g.* location, layout, design). It will ultimately have to be determined on a project-by-project basis the extent of assessment required and the likelihood of significant effects of that project for any SCI and QI for SPAs or SACs in Ireland or, potentially, further afield as part of the wider Natura 2000 network.

4.3 Conservation Objectives

Site-specific conservation objectives (SSCO) aim to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat and/or species at a European site. Maintaining habitats and species in a favourable conservation condition then contributes to the wider objective to maintain those most vulnerable habitats and species at favourable status throughout their range within the Natura 2000 network.

At an individual site level, SSCOs specify whether the objective is to maintain or to restore favourable conservation condition of the habitat and/or species, and they set out attributes and targets that define the objectives. It is the aim of the DHLGH[13] to produce SSCO for all European sites in due course[14]. QI and SCI are annexed habitats and annexed species of community interest for which an SAC or SPA has been designated. The SSCO for European sites are set out to ensure that the QIs/ SCIs of that site are maintained or restored to a favourable conservation condition / conservation status.

A full listing of the SSCOs and QIs/ SCIs that each European site is designated for, as well as the attributes and targets to maintain or restore the QIs/ SCIs to a favourable conservation condition are available from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) website www.npws.ie.

It is noted that the existing conservation condition of some habitats and species is unfavourable at present for various reasons, including because of exceedance in environmental quality parameters. This is discussed further in the next section.

Table 4-3 below shows the site-specific conservation objectives, where available, for the European sites falling within the Study Area of the draft SC-DMAP.

[13] Note: As of September 2020, a number of department names changed and in some cases functions have moved. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) was previously part of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) and is now part of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

[14] https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/

Table 4-2: Conservation objectives for European sites within the proposed SC-DMAP geographical area

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (IE000077) NPWS (2015a)	Estuaries [1130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Hunting (inside) Fertilisation (outside) grazing (outside) eutrophication (natural) (inside) invasive non-native species (inside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) grazing (inside) dispersed habitation (outside) sports pitch (inside) Fertilisation (inside) Taking and removal of animals (terrestrial) (inside) Leisure fishing (inside) bait digging / collection (inside)
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	Not available in NPWS's conservation objectives document (2015)	
Helvick Head SAC (IE000665) NPWS (2016b)	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	fire and fire suppression (inside) grazing (inside)
	European dry heaths [4030]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC (IE000671) NPWS (2013b)	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Discharges (inside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) grazing (outside) Hunting (inside) removal of beach materials (inside) invasive non-native species (inside) Leisure fishing (inside) camping and caravans (outside) grazing (inside) Urbanised areas, human habitation (outside) bait digging / collection (inside) Discharges (outside)
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
Ballyteige Burrow SAC	Estuaries [1130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Discharges (inside) Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture (inside)
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
(IE000696) NPWS (2014b)	Coastal lagoons [1150]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) off-road motorized driving (inside) Erosion (inside) Leisure fishing (inside) bait digging / collection (inside) invasive non-native species (inside) Biocenotic evolution, succession (inside)
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) [1420]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Humid dune slacks [2190]	Not available in NPWS's conservation objectives document (2014)	
Bannow Bay SAC (IE000697) NPWS (2012a)	Estuaries [1130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Discharges (inside) disposal of household / recreational facility waste (inside) intensive fish farming, intensification (inside) off-road motorized driving (inside) Erosion (inside) forest planting on open ground (outside) removal of beach materials (inside) paths, tracks, cycling tracks (inside) bait digging / collection (inside) invasive non-native species (inside) Removal of sediments (mud...) (inside) Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits (inside)
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) [1420]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
Saltee Islands SAC (IE000707) NPWS (2011c)	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Pollution to surface waters (limnic, terrestrial, marine & brackish) (inside) sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages (inside) Utility and service lines (inside) pelagic trawling (inside) bait digging / collection (inside) nautical sports (inside)
	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Reefs [1170]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
Hook Head SAC (IE000764) NPWS (2011b, 2024a)	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources (inside) scubadiving, snorkelling (inside) Dumping, depositing of dredged deposits (inside) Erosion (inside)
	Reefs [1170]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Not available in NPWS's conservation objectives document (2011)	
	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Not available in NPWS's conservation objectives document (2011)	
Ardmore Head SAC (IE002123) NPWS (2016a)	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	fire and fire suppression (inside) netting (outside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) dispersed habitation (outside) roads, motorways (inside) grazing (inside) Other human intrusions and disturbances (inside)
	European dry heaths [4030]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
Carnsore Point SAC (IE002269)	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	removal of beach materials (inside) piers / tourist harbours or recreational piers (inside)

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
NPWS (2011a, 2024b)	Reefs [1170]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Discharges (inside) Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources (inside) Erosion (inside) Leisure fishing (inside) bait digging / collection (inside) potting (inside) netting (inside) benthic or demersal trawling (inside)
	Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Not available in NPWS's conservation objectives document (2011)	
Saltee Islands SPA (IE004002) NPWS (2011c)	Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) grazing (inside)
	Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) [A016]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
Lady's Island Lake SPA (IE004009) NPWS (2022c)	Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) [A051]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	Hunting (inside) nautical sports (inside) predation (inside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) Pollution (inside) Fertilisation (outside) removal of beach materials (outside)
	Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) [A191]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Lady's Island Lake SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.	
Ballyteigue Burrow SPA (IE004020) NPWS (2014c)	Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Urbanised areas, human habitation (outside) Hunting (inside) Fertilisation (outside) grazing (outside) Cultivation (outside) grazing (inside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) Leisure fishing (inside) dispersed habitation (outside)
	Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Ballyteige Burrow SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory birds that utilise it.	
Old Head of Kinsale SPA (IE004021) NPWS (2022e)	Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	golf course (outside) golf course (inside) Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (outside)
	Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
Ballycotton Bay SPA (IE004022) NPWS (2014a)	Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh (inside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) Urbanised areas, human habitation (outside) Erosion (inside) Fertilisation (outside) grazing (inside)
	Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) [A169]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
	Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Ballycotton Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory birds that utilise it.	
Ballymacoda Bay SPA (IE004023) NPWS (2015b)	Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Hunting (inside) Fertilisation (outside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) invasive non-native species (inside) grazing (outside)
	Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) [A144]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) [A169]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Ballymacoda Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory birds that utilise it.	
Cork Harbour SPA (IE004030)	Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) [A004]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	skiing, off-piste (inside) Fertilisation (outside) Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
NPWS (2014d) S.I. No. 391/2021	Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	(inside) Shipping lanes (inside) dispersed habitation (outside) port areas (outside) Urbanised areas, human habitation (outside) roads, motorways (outside) nautical sports (inside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) Leisure fishing (inside) Industrial or commercial areas (outside)
	Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) [A028]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [A053]	Not available in NPWS's conservation objectives document (2014)	
	Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Greenshank (*Tringa nebulari*) [A164]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Cork Harbour SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
Dungarvan Harbour SPA (IE004032) NPWS (2012d)	Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A005]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Urbanised areas, human habitation (outside) Fertilisation (outside) Leisure fishing (inside) Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture (inside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside)
	Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) [A169]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Dungarvan Harbour SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.	
Bannow Bay SPA (IE004033) NPWS (2012b)	Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Hunting (inside) grazing (outside) dispersed habitation (outside) roads, motorways (outside) Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture (inside) Fertilisation (outside) Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (inside)
	Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) [A130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Bannow Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.	
Keeragh Islands SPA (IE004118) NPWS (2022b)	Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	No threats or pressures
Sovereign Islands SPA (IE004124) NPWS (2022g)	Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	No threats or pressures
Seven Heads SPA (IE004191) NPWS (2022f)	Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	Urbanised areas, human habitation (outside) predation (outside) predation (inside) Urbanised areas, human habitation (inside) abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing (inside) competition (outside) competition (inside) Agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape (inside) motorised vehicles (inside) Erosion (inside) invasive non-native species (inside)
Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA (IE004192) NPWS (2022a)	Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
	Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
Courtmacsherry Bay SPA (IE004219) NPWS (2014e)	Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) [A003]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	disposal of household / recreational facility waste (inside) nautical sports (inside) grazing (inside)
	Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) [A069]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Courtmacsherry Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.	
Seas off Wexford SPA (IE004237) NPWS (2024c)	Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	No Natura Data Form Published
	Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) [A013]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) [A016]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) [A176]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
	Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) [A191]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Common Tern (*F293*) [A193]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) [A195]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
Lady's Island Lake SAC (IE000704) NPWS (2019a)	Coastal lagoons [1150]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	Discharges (inside) off-road motorized driving (inside) Pollution to surface waters (limnic, terrestrial, marine & brackish) (inside) human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (inside) abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing (inside) Irrigation (inside) disposal of household / recreational facility waste (inside) diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities (inside) invasive non-native species (inside & outside) surface water abstractions for agriculture (inside)
	Reefs [1170]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC (IE001230) NPWS (2014f)	Estuaries [1130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Fertilisation (inside) Agriculture activities not referred to above (inside) removal of beach materials (inside) disposal of household / recreational facility waste (inside) Other discharges (inside) bait digging / collection (inside) nautical sports (inside) other outdoor sports and leisure activities (inside)
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	estuarine and coastal dredging (inside)
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
Tacumshin Lake SAC (IE000709) NPWS (2018)	Coastal lagoons [1150]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	Discharges (inside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (inside) Drying out (inside) species composition change (succession) (inside) abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing (inside) stock feeding (inside) Irrigation (inside) removal of beach materials (inside) disposal of household / recreational facility waste (inside) off-road motorized driving (inside) wildlife watching (inside) diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities (inside) modifying structures of inland water courses (inside) surface water abstractions for agriculture (inside) sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages (inside) Silting up (inside) Drying out (inside)
	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	To restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
Mid-Waterford Coast SPA (IE004193) NPWS (2022d)	Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	Agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape (outside) modification of cultivation practices (inside) Storage of materials (outside) abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing (inside)
	Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) [A103]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
	Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) [A346]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
Tacumshin Lake SPA (IE004092) NPWS (2022h)	Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) [A004]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	Fertilisation (outside) Hunting (inside) Modification of hydrographic functioning, general (inside) Cultivation (outside) other outdoor sports and leisure activities (inside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) grazing (inside) grazing (outside)
	Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) [A037]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) [A051]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) [A061]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Coot (*Fulica atra*) [A125]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition	
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Tacumshin Lake SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.	
Tramore Back Strand SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Pollution (inside) grazing (outside)

Site name (Site code)	List of QIs	Conservation Objective	Threat/Pressure Categories
(IE004027) NPWS (2013a)	Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	Urbanised areas, human habitation (outside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (inside) Discharges (outside) invasive non-native species (inside) Fertilisation (outside) walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles (outside)
	Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition	
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Tramore Back Strand SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.	

4.4 Conservation Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species

In 2007, 2013 and again in 2019 the NPWS published a report detailing the conservation status in Ireland of habitats and species listed in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), often referred to as "*the Article 17 Report*"[15]. Under the Habitats Directive, each Member State is obliged to undertake surveillance of the conservation status of the natural habitats and species in the Annexes and, under Article 17, to report to the European Commission every six years on their status and on the implementation of the measures taken under the Directive. **Appendix D** sets out a summary of the conservation status of each habitat and species from 2007 to 2019.

For the 2019 submission, Ireland's Article 17 Report recorded 15% of habitats as "*favourable"*, 46% as "*inadequate*" and 39% as "*bad*". Among the key findings were:

- There are mixed prospects identified for marine habitats going forward with some of the habitats considered to be improving but others to have unfavourable prospects. Marine habitats assessed as being in 'favourable' conservation status were sandbanks, submarine structures made by leaking gases, Salicornia mud, and sea caves. Estuaries, tidal mudflats, machair, drift lines, vegetated shingle and sea cliffs, Atlantic and Mediterranean salt meadows, embryonic shifting and marram dunes, and reefs were assessed as being in 'inadequate' status. Lagoons, halophilous scrub, fixed dunes, and large shallow inlets and bays were in 'bad' status.
- In general, marine mammal species were reported as being in favourable status, although for some cetaceans their status was reported as unknown.
- Many freshwater habitats are considered unfavourable due to nutrient loading within the catchment, however the RBMP (2018-2021) will aim to ensure improved targeting of mitigation measures.
- Many of the changes recorded between 2007 and 2013 reporting are due to improved knowledge e.g. marine habitats.

From the 2019 report, 57% of species were assessed as "*favourable*", 15% as "*inadequate*", 15% as "*bad*" and 13% as "*unknown*" or considered to be vagrant species. Among the key findings are:

- The reporting notes specifically in relation to marine habitats and species that:
    - marine mammals, as well as sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, twaite shad *Alosa fallax* and maërl species, suffer impacts due to "G01 Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species"
    - marine mammals are subject to a certain level of disturbance due to geotechnical marine surveys (pressure category "E Extraction of resources"), although it should be noted that, in relation to seismic exploration, a robust regulatory and management regime is applied in order to avoid potentially significant impacts on marine mammals.
    - several marine mammal species are also affected by commercial shipping and transport, with "E02 Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations" affecting whale species in particular.
- Other aspects of the reporting which includes species that could interact with the marine area through either migration or coastal activity:
    - Otter *Lutra lutra* and many bat species have been assessed as "favourable" with evidence of an expanding range;
    - Salmon *Salmo salar* is assessed as 'inadequate' and some other fish remain at "bad" status; and
    - Freshwater pearl mussel is "bad" and declining;

[15] The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, NPWS 2007 (Vol 1-3), 2013 (Vol 1 -3) and 2019 (Vol 1-3).

4.5 Existing Threats and Pressures to EU Protected Habitats and Species

Under Article 17 Member States are also obliged to identify threats and pressures to QI/SCI using a standard set of criteria. Threats are defined as "*Factors expected to act in the future after the current reporting period*" within the "*Future two reporting periods, i.e. within 12 years following the end of the current reporting period*", and pressures are defined as "*Acting now and/or during (any part of or all of) the current reporting period*", within the "*current six-year reporting period*."[16] Threat and pressure categories identified from the most recent Article 17 Report were considered in regard to the draft SC-DMAP, with those listed for European sites within the draft SC-DMAP Study Area listed in **Table 4-3**. The results confirm that there is a need for measures to halt the declines identified and to protect and restore the necessary conditions for the sites and species to achieve their conservation objectives. See **Appendix E** for a full list of Threats and pressures to EU protected habitats and species.

Similarly, the requirements for reporting under Article 12 of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) are every 6 years. Ireland's Article 12 National Summary Report records 101 out of a total of 154 SPAs as being marine sites[17]. Population trends over the long term are identified as declining for a number of species including Dunlin, Sandpiper and Snipe. Part of this reporting process requires the identification of pressures and threats that are acting or are likely to act on Ireland's breeding seabirds in the coming years. On a per species basis the most frequently identified threats include: offshore wind energy developments; the potential impacts of climate changes on habitats; overfishing; recreational disturbance; and marine litter.

The importance of mobile species outside designated sites including SAC and SPA must be recognised.

4.6 Relevant Biodiversity Policy

The EPA 2020 *State of the Environment Report*[18] identified a number of future challenges for national biodiversity, many of which are directly relevant to the draft SC-DMAP. Key findings from the report include:

- Ireland's marine waters are clean and reasonably healthy but not as biologically diverse and productive as they could be. Human-induced pressures identified are fishing, climate change and marine litter such as plastics;
- Marine Protected Areas are needed to both meet targets under the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and to promote the remediation of environmental damage and the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Robust governance and legal frameworks must be in place to protect marine ecosystems and the services they provide to society;
- Ireland needs to urgently prioritise actions to address the challenges facing nature in Ireland. Education, monitoring and citizen science initiatives are all important tools in protecting biodiversity.

As discussed under **Section 1.1**, the preparation of the draft SC-DMAP has had regard to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives. However, a number of other biodiversity policies are considered relevant to the draft SC-DMAP, which aim to address hand in hand the global biodiversity crisis and the global climate crisis. Relevant policies are summarised below.

The **EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030** aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate, and the planet. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, this updated policy aims to build resilience to future threats, including climate change, security of food supplies, forest fires, outbreaks of

[16] Reference Portal for reporting under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines for the period 2013-2018* http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/habitats_art17. Accessed September 2019.

[17] Reporting period is to end of 2018. Criteria for reporting specific to Art. 12.

[18] EPA (2020) Ireland's Environment – An Assessment. Available at: https://www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/stateoftheenvironmentreport/

disease and combating the illegal trade in wildlife. Furthermore, there is an intention to increase the Natura 2000 network which will be put forward in a proposal for an EU restoration plan. Implementation will be assisted by better tracking of progress, improving knowledge transfer, and emphasising 'respect for nature' in public and business decision-making. The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 also outlines key deliverables such as the EU Soil Strategy for 2030, and aims to ensure co-responsibility and co-ownership by all relevant actors in meeting the EU's biodiversity commitments.

The **8th Environmental Action Programme to 2030** builds on the European Green Deal and aims to protect and restore biodiversity, pursuing zero pollution to air water and soil, and reducing climate pressures. Ireland has obligations under EU law to protect and conserve biodiversity. This relates to habitats and species both within and outside designated sites.

The **National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2023-2030** was published in January 2024 by NPWS (NPWS, 2024). This updated NBAP is a framework for the conservation and protection of biodiversity in Ireland. This fourth NBAP strives for a "whole of government, whole of society" approach to the governance and conservation of biodiversity. The aim is to ensure that every citizen, community, business, local authority, semi-state and state agency has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and of the implications of its loss, while also understanding how they can act to address the biodiversity emergency as part of a renewed national effort to "act for nature". It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:

- Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity
- Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs
- Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People
- Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity
- Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives

The draft **Climate Action Plan 2024** includes the following themes and actions specifically relevant to draft SC-DMAP:

- Theme: *Research and Innovation*
    - Action RE/24/3: *Publish 2030+ Roadmap to determine pathways to deploy offshore/ocean technology.*
    - Action RE/24/5: *Progress the development of a proposal for an offshore renewable energy innovation park.*
- Theme: *Accelerate Renewable Energy Generation*
    - Action EL/24/1: *Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce to publish programme of Work*
    - Action EL/24/2: *Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce to publish key actions for 2024.*
    - Action EL/24/8: *Deliver onshore and offshore RESS auctions as per the annual RESS auction calendar.*
- Theme: *Marine Environment*

  Measures: Support the new state-led consenting system for the Maritime Area and the development of ORE
    - Action MA/24/2: Publish the South Coast Offshore Renewable Energy DMAP.

Ireland's **Biodiversity Sectoral Climate Adaptation Plan builds** on the foundations of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and aims to identify adaptation options that will protect biodiversity and ecosystem services from the impacts of a changing climate and to enable ecosystems to play their role in increasing resilience to climate change. The plan identifies coastal habitats as being one of the habitat types most vulnerable to climate change. The plan also identifies the increased pressures on species which impact upon their geographical range, and the increased occurrence and spread of invasive species due to shifts in climate, temperature and precipitation. A range of adaptive measures are proposed in the plan which are important for resilience in the longer term.

Ireland's **National Marine Planning Framework** (NMPF) was published in July 2021 and forms a key decision-making tool for regulatory authorities and policy makers into the future. It is a single plan covering all marine activities which reflects the need for a coherent strategic vision for marine planning in Ireland. The planning framework is a long-term strategy for the next 20 years which sets the groundwork for the development of the marine waters surrounding Ireland. The NMPF addresses both opportunities and challenges to deliver policy directions across a broad spectrum. Any activities implemented under the Policy Framework that constitute 'development' will be subject to the relevant national (including marine, if applicable), regional and local planning policies and the sustainability and environmental protection measures contained within these policies. If made, the draft SC-DMAP will form part of the NMPF.

The counterpart for NMPF for terrestrial spatial planning is the **National Planning Framework (NPF)**, which together with **National Development Plan (NDP)** make up 'Project Ireland 2040'. These documents are at the top of the terrestrial spatial planning hierarchy in Ireland and are the Government's high-level plan for the future of sustainable development in Ireland. These documents set land use policies at the national level, as it is necessary to make choices about how we balance growth with more sustainable approaches to development and land use by examining how planning policy can help shape national infrastructural decisions.

5 STAGE 1: SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

In order to comply with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive, the process of Screening for AA was undertaken in respect of the draft SC-DMAP. The AA Screening assessed the potential for the draft SC-DMAP to result in likely significant effects on any European sites within the Natura 2000 network, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The report prepared in support of AA screening concluded that an Appropriate Assessment of the draft SC-DMAP was required for the following reasons:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site; and
- Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on some European sites could not be ruled out.

Therefore, adopting the precautionary principle, the Report in Support of AA Screening concluded that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) should be prepared. Section 22(4) of the MAP Act also requires that an AA be carried out in relation to the draft SC-DMAP.

The MECC made a screening determination that there was potential for LSE and Stage 2 of the AA process would be required to inform the AA determination on the draft SC-DMAP.

6 STAGE 2: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

The document assesses the potential for adverse effects that the implementation of the draft SC-DMAP could have on the integrity of any European sites, with reference to their conservation objectives. EC guidance[1], states that the integrity of a site involves its ecological functions and the decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on, and be limited to, the site's conservation objectives. As noted earlier in this NIS, the draft SC-DMAP specifies four broad Maritime Areas within the proposed geographical area of the Plan in which future fixed ORE development may take place subject to all necessary project level assessments and consents.

The conservation objectives, including site specific conservation objectives, where available, have been set out for those European sites within the Study Area, see **Table 4-3**.

However, given the strategic nature of the draft SC-DMAP, the focus has been on the broad intention of conservation objectives more so than site specific conservation objectives. The addition of detail at the development permission application stage, in particular project specific information (including location, design etc.) for proposed ORE and associated transmission infrastructure in the SC-DMAP area, will be necessary to assess implications for site specific conservation objectives.

The potential effects have been assessed in the absence of any mitigation measures and also with application of the precautionary principle. It is noted that the development of the draft SC-DMAP has benefited from an integration of SEA/ AA expertise to highlight and address concerns on an ongoing basis as the draft SC-DMAP has evolved. This is in line with EC Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive[1] which promotes a hierarchy beginning with avoidance before considering mitigation and compensatory measures. Through iterative discussion during the preparation of the draft SC-DMAP, avoidance of impacts as a result of implementing SC-DMAP has therefore been at the forefront of discussions with DECC.

6.2 Approach to Assessment

In line with the relevant guidance, this stage of the Appropriate Assessment consists of three main steps:

Impact Prediction - where the likely impacts of SC-DMAP are examined. A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to assess potential for impact;

Assessment of Effects - where the effects of SC-DMAP are assessed as to whether they have any adverse effects on the integrity of European sites as defined by conservation objectives; and

Mitigation Measures - where mitigation measures are identified to ameliorate any adverse effects on the integrity of any European site.

6.3 Prediction of Effects

As noted in **Section 3**, in considering the potential for impacts from implementation of the draft SC-DMAP, a "source–pathway–receptor" approach has been applied. The source relates to the SC-DMAP policies and Maritime Areas outlined in the draft SC-DMAP and associated development within the SC-DMAP area which have the potential to adversely affect European sites. The pathways relate to how the draft SC-DMAP actions can affect European sites, e.g. habitat loss/ fragmentation, disturbance to species or impacts to water quality. The receptor is any European site(s), potentially including those transboundary sites for which there is a pathway of connectivity as a result of the implementation of the draft SC-DMAP.

6.3.1 Context for Impact Prediction

The development and implementation of the draft SC-DMAP itself is considered to be broadly positive as it puts forward initial 'proposed' geographical areas within which future offshore wind energy development may take place.

However, the draft SC-DMAP has potential to adversely affect European sites given the nature of some actions and measures it presents. **Section 6.3.2** identifies the main potential ecological impacts that could arise for European sites from the implementation of the draft SC-DMAP.

6.3.2 Impact Identification

A summary of the main potential ecological impacts that could arise from the implementation of the draft SC-DMAP are presented below and are used in the impact prediction.

- Loss or changes in ecosystem process upon which QI habitats and species and SCI species populations are dependent *e.g.* sediment mobilisation/deposition, release of pollutants/adverse changes in water quality, introduction/spread of invasive alien species;
- Loss, deterioration and/or fragmentation of habitats. Such impacts could be immediate or gradual over time.
- Change in species populations/assemblages due to changes in habitat, mortality/injury and loss/disturbance of key features for breeding, feeding and resting. This includes inter-dependency of species on other species and/or habitats *e.g.* foraging resources of certain bird species or life-cycle inter-dependency between Salmonids and freshwater pearl mussel.
- In-combination impacts.

6.3.3 Impact Prediction

In line with the methodology for impact prediction outlined in **Section 3**, the main ecological impacts that could potentially arise from the policies and development of OW and associated development as outlined in the draft SC-DMAP are summarised in **Table 6-1** and discussed in the following sections. In-combination impacts are assessed separately in **Section 6.5**.

Table 6-1: Main Ecological Impacts that could Potentially Arise from the actions, and steps, outlined in the Draft SC-DMAP

Impact Source	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
Energy – Offshore Renewables Cumulative Impacts with Onshore Supporting Infrastructure Development Energy – Transmission Systems Ports, harbours and Shipping	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Loss of key supporting; habitats and ecosystem complexes; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alterations to air quality; • Alternations due to climate change; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	Potential direct and indirect impacts associated with the development of infrastructural projects such as, water, energy and technology where these developments overlap adjoin, are proximal to or support connectivity with European sites.

6.4 Assessment of the draft SC-DMAP

The following section provides a summary of the assessment of the SC-DMAP policy objectives contained within the draft SC-DMAP in the context of potential for adverse effects on the integrity of a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The assessment is summarised below:

6.4.1 Policy Objectives for Maritime Areas (MA)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
MA 1 To support Ireland's legally binding climate objectives through enabling achievement of 5 GW of offshore wind by 2030, 20 GW by 2040, and 37 GW by 2050, by providing for the strategically managed and sustainable development of fixed offshore wind technology and associated offshore transmission system infrastructure within the SC-DMAP area. The development of fixed offshore wind brought forward under this Plan is considered to be of strategic and national importance to the State.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective MA1 is considered positive, in that the objective is committing to meet Ireland's climate change objectives, via the sustainable development of fixed offshore wind. The effects of climate change on habitats and species within the terrestrial and marine environment are well documented. In relation to the marine environment, these effects are particularly related to the impact of the "deadly trio" of global warming, ocean acidification and increased deoxygenation. These effects include adverse effects on the qualifying interests of the European sites relevant to this assessment[19]. Therefore, the policy is considered broadly positive since it contributes to addressing climate change which includes addressing the predicted adverse effects of climate change on the marine and terrestrial environment, including with respect to the qualifying interest of European sites relevant to this assessment. Although Objective MA1 is considered positive, the provision supported by the objective, if uncontrolled, would result in adverse effects on European sites. However, both existing legislative (*e.g.* EU Habitats Directive) and policy requirements on the delivery of this provision, including specific policy objectives of the SC-DMAP (*e.g.* IGM1 to IGM5, MI1 to MI2, OEP1 to OEP2 and B1), will ensure that appropriate controls are in place to ensure that no adverse effects on European sites will arise with respect to the provisions supported by this objective. It is only if these controls are respected that this provision can be delivered.	None proposed.
MA 2 That the development of ORE within the SC-DMAP area will exclusively relate to fixed offshore wind technology and may incorporate projects that are directly connected to the onshore electricity transmission system, as well as projects with alternative offtake solutions and therefore not connected to the onshore transmission system.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** The development to be delivered via Objective MA2, if uncontrolled, would result in adverse effects on European sites. However, both existing legislative (*e.g.* EU Habitats Directive) and policy requirements on the delivery of this provision, including specific policy objectives of the SC-DMAP (*e.g.* IGM1 to IGM5, MI1 to MI2, OEP1 to OEP2 and B1), ensures that appropriate controls are in place to ensure that no adverse effects on European sites will arise.	None proposed.
MA 3 Maritime Area A will contain the first development of fixed offshore wind within the SC-DMAP area, to be developed by the winner of the ORESS 2.1 auction, which aims to	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** No adverse effects on European sites will result from Objective MA3 due to (1) the avoidance and impact/effect reduction measures which have been "built in" to the identification of Maritime Area A and (2) the legislative and policy controls which are in place, including through the SC-DMAP, for any development consent of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Area A.	None proposed.

[19]European Environment Agency. *How Climate Change Impacts Marine Life*. Briefing No. 22/2023 (download.pdf.static (europa.eu))

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
deploy by 2030, or as soon as feasible thereafter, and will be connected to the onshore electricity system.	With reference to the mitigation hierarchy, any development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Area A avoids any direct impacts and effects on any European sites and their qualifying interests since it lies outside the boundary of any European site designation relevant to this assessment. Further, the potential for indirect impacts and effects is reduced given the spatial separation between Maritime Area A and any European sites. There is a linear spatial separation of c. 1.9km between Maritime Area A and the closest European site (Seas off Wexford cSPA); the spatial separation for other European sites is significantly greater. The spatial separation between Maritime Area A and coastal European sites is at least c. 3.9km (Hook Head SAC). Building in avoidance of direct impacts and effects alongside reducing the potential for indirect impacts and effects (including with respect to their extent and magnitude) contributes to ensuring that any development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Area A will have no adverse effects on any European sites. However, avoiding and reducing adverse impacts and effects at this Plan level is not sufficient to address all potential adverse effects on European sites as a result of site specific project development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Area A in due course. Such impacts and effects would be indirect and include potential impacts and effects on qualifying interests of European sites which utilise Maritime Area A for part of their life-cycle (*e.g.* for commuting, migration and foraging). Further measures (*e.g.* in the form of mitigations) will need to be identified to address project-specific impacts and effects identified through project-specific environmental assessments (e.g. EIA and AA) when consent is sought for development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Area A. These assessments will need to also assess cumulative/in-combination impacts and effects. It will then be a matter for the competent authority to determine if permission should be granted in accordance with the requirements of Article 693) and, if considered necessary and applicable, 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. Both the existing legislative (*e.g.* EU Habitats Directive) and policy requirements on the development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Area A, including specific policy objectives of the SC-DMAP (*e.g.* IGM1 to IGM5, MI1 to MI2, OEP1 to OEP2 and B1), will ensure that appropriate project-specific measures are secured at project-level to ensure the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected.	
MA 4 Following the SC-DMAP being made, the award of MACs in respect of a proposed future ORE developments within Maritime Areas B, C, and D, should be granted according to timing, methodology and processes to be determined by MARA in accordance with the MAP Act.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** No adverse effects on European sites will result from Objective MA4 due to (1) the avoidance and impact/effect reduction measures which have been "built in" to the identification of Maritime Areas B, C and D and (2) the legislative and policy controls which are in place, including through the SC-DMAP, for any development consent of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Areas B, C and D granted further to development permission applications made pursuant to the award of MACs in these areas. With reference to the mitigation hierarchy, any development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Areas B, C and D avoids any direct impacts and effects on any European sites and their qualifying	None proposed.

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
	interests since each lies outside the boundary of any European site designation relevant to this assessment. Further, the potential for indirect impacts and effects is reduced given the spatial separation between Maritime Areas B, C and D and any European sites. There is a linear spatial separation of c.10.7km, 2.0km and 2.0km between Maritime Areas B, C and D and the closest European site, respectively; the spatial separation for other European sites is significantly greater. The spatial separation between Maritime Areas B, C and D and coastal European sites is at least c. 15.0km (Hook Head SAC), 15.5km (Hook Head SAC) and 14.2km (Saltee Islands SAC), respectively. Building in avoidance of direct impacts and effects alongside reducing the potential for indirect impacts and effects (including with respect to their extent and magnitude) contributes to ensuring that any development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Areas B, C and D will have no adverse effects on any European sites. It will then be a matter for the competent authority to determine at project-level if permission should be granted in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) and, if considered necessary and applicable, Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. However, avoiding and reducing adverse impacts and effects at this Plan level is not sufficient to address all potential adverse effects on European sites as a result of site specific project development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Areas B, C and D in due course. Such impacts and effects would be indirect and include potential impacts and effects on qualifying interests of European sites which utilise Maritime Areas B, C and D for part of their life-cycle (*e.g.* for commuting, migration and foraging). Further measures (*e.g.* in the form of mitigations) will need to be identified to address project-specific impacts and effects when project-specific environmental assessments (e.g. EIA and AA), including with respect to cumulative/in-combination assessments, are completed and consent is sought for development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Areas B, C and D. Both the existing legislative (*e.g.* EU Habitats Directive) and policy requirements on the development of fixed offshore wind within Maritime Areas B, C and D, including specific policy objectives of the SC-DMAP (*e.g.* IGM1 to IGM5, MI1 to MI2, OEP1 to OEP2 and B1), will ensure that appropriate project-specific measures are secured at project-level to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected.	

6.4.2 Policy Objectives for Mitigation (MI)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
MI 1 (a): Applications for development of ORE in Areas B – D, D, and associated transmission infrastructure, should only be submitted to and considered by the planning authority when the data from completed Regional Level Surveys is available, to inform the project level EIA and AA in-	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective MI1 is considered positive, including with respect to European sites and the environmental assessment of developments within Maritime Areas B to D and associated transmission infrastructure.	None proposed.

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
combination and cumulative assessments. The scope of the Regional Level Surveys, and a decision regarding whether they will be carried out by the State, MAC holders, or both, will be determined by the DMAP Implementation Programme Board. (b) Within 6 months of the SC-DMAP being made, DECC will establish the DMAP Implementation Board to agree the scope of Regional Level Surveys and the mechanism for making such data accessible via a GIS Data Repository to be established as an implementation action of the SC-DMAP. (c) Proposed ORE developments and associated transmission infrastructure should use data collected through the GIS Data Repository to support project level EIA and AA assessments as this data is completed and made accessible.		
MI 2 At the project level, all applications for development consents for ORE projects and transmission infrastructure emanating from any SC-DMAP policy objective should have regard to the relevant pre-consent survey requirements and guidance set out in Appendix B. Applications for development consent that may give rise to likely significant effects on the environment should be accompanied by one or more of the following, as relevant: • Ecological Impact Assessment Report; • Environmental Report; • Environmental Impact Assessment Report if required under the relevant legislation (statutory document); • Natura Impact Statement if required under the relevant legislation (statutory document); and • Article 12 (Habitats Directive) Assessment on Annex IV species. • Article 5 (Birds Directive) Assessment on wild or migratory bird species. • An assessment of any proposed derogation from the requirements of the Habitats or Birds Directives.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective MI2 is considered positive; including with respect to European sites. It also affirms the main statutory documentation necessary; if required at a project level under relevant legislation.	None proposed.
MI 3 Any Licence application that may need to be made to MARA under Part 5 of the MAP Act for the purposes of carrying out the Regional Level Surveys, as well as Licence applications by MAC holders in Areas A to D for the purposes of ORE project-specific site investigations and marine	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective MI3 is considered neutral and potentially positive; with respect to European sites.	None proposed.

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
environmental surveys in the SC-DMAP area, should be treated as priority by MARA, subject to compliance with Part 5 of the MAP Act and any relevant regulations.		

6.4.3 Policy Objectives for Implementation, Governance and Monitoring (IGM)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
IGM 1 A governance structure to facilitate the implementation of the SC-DMAP will be established within six months following the making of the SC-DMAP, and will include the following: - A SC-DMAP Implementation Programme Board, headed by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, which inter alia will: oversee the implementation of the SC-DMAP; agree the scope and coordination of Regional Levels Surveys to support the project application assessment and development stage of Maritime Areas B to D convene and chair a bi-annual meeting of all SC-DMAP governance groups within a single 'Collaborative Forum' to discuss all proposed ORE projects and enabling infrastructure to be brought forward under the Plan and cumulative and in-combination effects; and facilitate a data repository for the SC-DMAP including a common, shared, GIS data repository for Plan and project level data. - A Marine Ecosystems and Ornithology Working Group whose role will include: advising the SC-DMAP Implementation Programme Board on the monitoring of and the implementation of the SC-DMAP and recommending the scope of the Regional Level Surveys	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective IGM1 is considered positive with respect to European sites, since it provides a governance structure to facilitate the implementation of the SC-DMAP. The governance structure will be responsible for the scope and coordination of regional surveys, facilitate a common, shared GIS data repository for the SC-DMAP and ensure collaboration between ORE and enabling projects bought forward under the plan. The Governance structure will also deliver a Marine Ecosystem and Ornithology Working Group. These measures are all considered beneficial with respect to European sites and will assist in ensuring robust environmental assessment of any plans or projects bought forward under the SC-DMAP; including any in-combination/cumulative assessment. Such a Governance structure will contribute to the protection of the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.	None proposed.
IGM 2 Include biodiversity representatives as part of the governance framework for the implementation of the SC-DMAP to ensure that marine biodiversity objectives are central to the implementation and monitoring of the SC-DMAP and any remedial or corrective action required.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective IGM2 is considered positive; including with respect to European sites since it commits to include biodiversity representatives as part of the governance framework for SC-DMAP to ensure that marine biodiversity objectives are central to the implementation and monitoring of the Plan. Such a commitment will contribute to the protection of the	None proposed.

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
	overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network as a result of the implementation of the SC-DMAP.	
IGM 3 To monitor the implementation the SC-DMAP, an Implementation Plan will be developed within one year following the making of the SC-DMAP. It will incorporate SEA monitoring requirements to monitor any identified significant environmental effects of implementation of the SC-DMAP.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective IGM3 is considered at least neutral and potentially positive with respect to European sites since it commits to monitor the implementation of the SC-DMAP, including any SEA monitoring requirements.	None proposed.
IGM 4 Establish a dedicated offshore wind-maritime research programme in partnership with and managed by the Marine Institute.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective IGM4 is considered at least neutral with respect to European sites since it commits to a dedicated offshore wind-maritime research programme.	None proposed.
IGM 5 To support the Maritime Authorisation Database provided for in the MAP Act. MACs and development permissions for projects within the SC-DMAP area should include conditions requiring developers to gather data including ecological data to inform project level EIA and AA and data relevant to cumulative and in-combination assessment. Data gathered will be submitted to MARA in a format to be determined by MARA within three months of being collected. The data will be added to a common, shared GIS data repository for use by the projects and Government Departments and State bodies.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective IGM5 is considered positive; including with respect to European sites since it commits to the collation and sharing of data from projects bought forward under the SC-DMAP via a common, shared GIS data repository. The application of such a data repository would contribute to robust environment assessment; including AA for project(s) bought forward under the Plan. This would contribute to the protection of the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network as a result of the implementation of the SC-DMAP.	None proposed.

6.4.4 Policy Objectives for Overarching Environmental Protection (OEP)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
OEP 1 Development permission applications for development for ORE and associated infrastructure within the SC-DMAP area should have regard as appropriate to Guidelines issued under section 7 of the MAP Act including forthcoming Marine Planning Guidelines for ORE. Applications should also include, where relevant, the proposed management plans listed at Appendix C. The proposed management plans will then form part of the public consultation and assessment process and final plans may be submitted for approval by the consenting authority prior to construction.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective OEP1 is considered positive; including with respect to European sites. In particular, it is considered positive since Appendix C includes a requirement for planning applications submitted with reference to the SC-DMAP to include a number of management plans including a Marine Mammal and Megafauna Mitigation Plan, Marine Ornithology Monitoring Strategy, Nature Rehabilitation and Enhancement Plan, Marine Invasive Non-native Species Management Plan, Construction Environmental Management Plan and Environmental Management Plan. All these plans will be relevant to European sites and qualifying interests.	None proposed.
OEP 2 To ensure robust project assessments and to contribute to best practice for projects brought forward under the Plan, environmental constraints such as the presence of designated sites, the attainment of good environmental status and the processes and functions necessary to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites should be integrated in to all stages of decision making including but not limited to constraints analysis, route and site selection and project level assessment for EIAR and NIS preparation. If it cannot be concluded that a plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of European Sites following mitigation, it will be a matter for the competent authority to determine if permission should be granted in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and all necessary compensatory measures must be taken to ensure the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective OEP2 ensures the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is projected.	None proposed.
OEP 3 To contribute to the ecological enhancement of the marine environment, projects should, through a project-specific Nature Enhancement and Rehabilitation Plan, provide for ecological enhancement and recovery of the marine environment that goes beyond measures required for project mitigation and which contribute to European, national and local biodiversity policies, including any National Nature Restoration Plan, and are commensurate with and proportional to the scale/footprint and potential environmental effect of the project. Projects which incorporate features that enhance or facilitate species adaptation or migration, or	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective OEP3 is positive, including with respect to European sites and their qualifying interests, since the project-specific Nature Enhancement and Rehabilitation Plan will include project-specific additional measures to those required for project-specific mitigation. Given that the measures are project-specific, the measures included in the Plan, including with respect to the enhancement and facilitation of species adaptation or migration, or habitat connectivity will be positive measures which compliment any measures implemented under Articles 6(1) and 6(2) of the Habitats Directive or project-specific	None proposed.

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
natural native habitat connectivity will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policy objectives of this SC-DMAP.	measures implemented at project-level under Article 6(3) and, if considered necessary and applicable, Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.	

6.4.5 Policy Objectives for Biodiversity (B)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
B 1 Applications for development permission should have regard to the following guidance and plans, and updates thereof, set out in Appendix D.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective B1 is considered positive since it identifies key guidance and plans, including those relevant to European sites, which applications for development permissions should have regard to. These guidance and plans include guidance on ecological assessment, including with respect to the preparation of Natura Impact Statements for ORE projects, and includes regard with respect to the recently published 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 and any National Nature Restoration Plan.	None proposed.

6.4.6 Policy Objectives for Protected Marine Sites (MS)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
MS 1 To ensure that statutory reviews of the SC-DMAP and projects brought forward under this Plan must consider the evolution of baseline conditions, which includes additional future national protected sites e.g. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and European Sites e.g. marine SPAs and SACs and data from regional level survey activities and projects. This augmented baseline should inform statutory environmental assessment processes including cumulative and in-combination assessment with respect to EIA and AA of projects under the plan.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective MS1 is considered positive since it ensures that any statutory environmental assessment of projects under the Plan, including explicitly cumulative and in-combination assessment, will be based on the best scientific knowledge available and ensures that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected.	None proposed.

6.4.7 Policy Objectives for Water Quality (WQ)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
WQ 1 To protect and improve water quality, projects should carry out comparative analysis of routes and installation techniques, including the use of modelling to determine the scale of sediment plume relative to the sensitivity of the environmental receptors e.g. wading birds or aquaculture sites.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective WQ1 is considered at least neutral and potentially positive with respect to European sites since it seeks to protect and improve water quality with particular emphasis with respect to the sensitivity of environmental receptors. Such environmental receptors would include European sites and their relevant qualifying interests.	None proposed.

6.4.8 Policy Objectives for Marine Litter (ML)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
ML 1 Proposals for projects should comply with Marine Litter Policy 1 set out within the NMPF, specifically priority should be given within project design to proposals that, in order of preference, facilitate the prevention, reuse and recycling of waste. Where waste is expected to be generated a waste management plan should be in place to prioritise a hierarchy of avoid, minimise, mitigate in relation to marine litter. The waste management plan should explicitly address wastes and litter generated during enabling, construction, operation and decommissioning of development.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective ML1 is considered at least neutral and potentially positive with respect to European sites since it seeks to ensure the prevention, reuse and recycling of waste and to avoid, minimise and mitigate marine litter. Such a policy avoids, minimises and mitigates any impacts and effects at a Plan-level of waste and marine litter on European sites and their qualifying interests.	None proposed.
ML 2 Projects brought forward under this Plan should minimise electromagnetic field (EMF) in the marine environment, including where necessary, through the project design mitigation e.g., prioritisation of cable burial where possible. Projects should gather evidence to inform the project-level impact assessment.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective ML2 is considered positive with respect to European sites since it seeks to ensure that projects bought forward under the Plan to minimise and mitigate for EMF in the marine environment. Additionally, it requires evidence to be gathered for project-level impact assessment for projects bought forward under the Plan.	None proposed.

6.4.9 Policy Objectives for Underwater Noise (UN)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
UN 1 Applications for projects should demonstrate that they have had regard to guidance relating to underwater noise including NPWS Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters and updates thereof and propose appropriate mitigation measures for any activity that may generate underwater noise. Until such time as the NPWS guidance is updated projects should have regard to the underlying research this guidance is based on, and updates to this research.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective UN1 is considered positive with respect to European sites, and their qualifying interests as they relate to marine mammals, since it requires projects bought forward under the Plan should have regard to the relevant guidance (or updates thereof) for managing the risk to marine mammals from underwater noise generated as a result of those projects.	None proposed.
UN 2 To minimise the risk of disturbance on biodiversity and the cumulative effects of underwater noise along with other pressures such as increased sedimentation, survey and installation works should, so far as possible, be programmed to be carried out at separate times to reduce potential for noisy or other disturbing activities to occur at the same time and which could affect the same area.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective UN2 is considered at least neutral and potentially positive with respect to European sites and their qualifying interests since it seeks to minimise the risk of disturbance on biodiversity and the cumulative effects of underwater noise when considered alongside other pressures.	None proposed.
UN 3 To support MSFD descriptor 11 that the introduction of offshore renewable energy, including underwater noise is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment. Projects should consider techniques such as adjusting the parameters of the pile stroke, soft-start piling activities, avoiding piling in periods of ecological importance, delaying piling if mammals are spotted, or using acoustic deterrent devices or sound barriers (where suitable) to avoid, minimise or mitigate to reduce those impacts on marine fauna. Best available techniques should be used to reflect the emerging evidence base on noise abatement for offshore wind developments in water greater than 45m.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective UN3 is considered positive with respect to European sites and their relevant qualifying interests since it seeks to not adversely effect the marine environment as a result of underwater noise generated by projects bought forward under the Plan.	None proposed.

6.4.10 Policy Objectives for Air Quality (AQ)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
AQ 1 To reduce a reliance on fossil fuels and associated emissions and air pollution. Projects should comply with existing regulatory and policy commitments to offshore and vessel management air pollution protocols as set out in MARPOL and Ireland's enacting legislation. Installation and Maintenance vessels should use alternative lower emission fuels and more efficient transport strategies, where possible.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Objective AQ 1 is considered neutral. This objective commits that projects must comply with existing regulatory and policy commitments to offshore/vessel management air pollution protocols as set out with MARPOL and Ireland's enacting legislation. This objective implies projects brought forward under this Plan are not exempt from best practice guidelines by applying under this Plan.	None proposed.

6.4.11 Policy Objectives for Climate Change (CC)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
CC 1 To support Ireland's climate and renewable energy objectives by providing for ORE development. In addition to delivering renewable energy, projects should demonstrate the integration of a multi-benefit approach into their project, which may include the delivery of carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, coastal management, water quality management or other ecosystem services through the project design and/or mitigation.	**No adverse effects on any European sites. Policy** Objective CC1 is considered positive since it supports Ireland's climate change objectives. As stated with respect to Policy Objective MA1, the effects of climate change on habitats and species within the terrestrial and marine environment are well documented. In relation to the marine environment, these effects are particularly related to the impact of the "deadly trio" of global warming, ocean acidification and increased deoxygenation. These effects include adverse effects on the qualifying interests of the European sites relevant to this assessment[20]. Therefore, the policy is considered broadly positive since it contributes to addressing climate change which includes addressing the predicted adverse effects of climate change on the marine and terrestrial environment, including with respect to the qualifying interest of European sites relevant to this assessment. In addition, the policy further promotes via the SC-DMAP the delivery of biodiversity enhancement, water quality management and other ecosystem services via project design and/or mitigation. The delivery of such can be positive for European sites and their qualifying interests.	None proposed.
CC 2 To support the role played by the marine environment in carbon storage and carbon sequestration, development in the SC-DMAP area should avoid impacts on carbon storage and carbon sequestration and include consideration of the integrity of European sites. Project-specific impacts on carbon sequestration resources, biodiversity enhancement, managing coastal erosion e.g., through stabilising sediment and opportunities for carbon sequestration should be considered and any losses in storage or sequestration should be quantified and compensated for.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective CC2 is considered positive since it supports the role played by the marine environment in carbon storage and sequestration. Mindful of carbon's role in climate change and as stated with respect to Policy Objective MA1, the effects of climate change on habitats and species within the terrestrial and marine environment are well documented[21]. Therefore, the policy is considered broadly positive since it contributes to addressing climate change which includes addressing the predicted adverse effects of climate change on the marine and terrestrial environment, including with respect to the qualifying interest of European sites relevant to this assessment.	None proposed.

[20]European Environment Agency. *How Climate Change Impacts Marine Life*. Briefing No. 22/2023 (download.pdf.static (europa.eu))

[21]European Environment Agency. *How Climate Change Impacts Marine Life*. Briefing No. 22/2023 (download.pdf.static (europa.eu))

6.4.12 Policy Objectives for Co-Existence (CO)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
CO 1 That, in order to promote co-existence between ORE and other existing and future uses within the SC-DMAP area, permanent exclusions on activities or usages around or within ORE or transmission infrastructure located within the SC-DMAP area should be avoided where possible, save relating to safety or in other exceptional circumstances where considered warranted by MARA or planning authorities in accordance with their respective roles. The likely requirement for temporary exclusion zones during periods of offshore infrastructure construction and maintenance is recognised. Any such restrictions should, where possible, endeavour to avoid adverse impacts on other maritime users.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective CO1 is assessed as neutral with respect to European sites; however, it enables MARA or planning authorities to consider permanent exclusions on activities around or within ORE or transmission infrastructure located within the SC-DMAP area where warranted. If such exclusions on activities were warranted to protect the coherence of the Natura 2000 network, the consenting authorities would be able to apply such measures.	None proposed.
CO 2 Developers of ORE projects and transmission infrastructure shall accurately map their respective development sites, including electricity export and inter-array cables as laid post development. This location and coordinate data shall be made available to MARA and other maritime users, including fishers, in a format that can be downloaded on navigation systems including a suitable plotter format which can be installed within fishing vessels.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective CO2 is considered neutral with respect to European sites.	None proposed.

6.4.13 Policy Objectives for Aquaculture, Seafood and Fisheries (SF)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
SF 1 Developers of proposed ORE projects and transmission infrastructure within the SC-DMAP area should maintain a record of engagement with Irish-registered fishers and the wider seafood sector regarding proposed survey activity and should optimise infrastructure design and layout to maximise opportunities for co-existence with fishing and seafood activity. Where feasible, a reduction of potential adverse impacts should be investigated through avoiding areas of identified high fishing activity or, failing this, through minimising and/or mitigating impacts on fishing activity, including through optimising windfarm layout to facilitate co-existence.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective SF1 is considered neutral with respect to European sites.	None proposed.
SF 2 Developers of proposed ORE projects and transmission infrastructure, as well as the seafood/fishing sector, should take into account the objectives and principles established in the 'Seafood/ORE Engagement in Ireland - A Summary Guide' and its successors, regarding protocols for constructive cooperation and engagement between the ORE and Seafood Sectors. Proposed developers of ORE projects and transmission infrastructure should document these efforts.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective SF2 is considered neutral with respect to European sites.	None proposed.
SF 3 A Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) shall be prepared by developers of proposed ORE projects and transmission infrastructure, in consultation with identified local fishing interests. All efforts should be made to agree the FMMS with those interests. Those interests must also undertake to engage with developers and provide spatial information in a timely manner to enable completion of the FMMS. The FMMS should identify management and mitigation measures for each commercial fishery that can establish within a reasonable timeframe to developers of prospective offshore wind projects and transmission infrastructure, through the provision of spatial information, that they would be adversely affected by the development. The FMMS will be updated and amended by developers throughout the lifetime of a project as appropriate and as necessary.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective SF3 is considered neutral with respect to European sites. As per Policy Objective OEP1, the FMMS is listed under Appendix C of the SC-DMAP as one of the proposed management plans which any development permission application for proposed ORE projects and transmission infrastructure in the SC-DMAP area should include.	None proposed.

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
SF 4 As part of an FMMS, developers of prospective ORE projects and transmission infrastructure, shall consult with local seafood/aquaculture interests and other interests as appropriate, and shall prepare an Aquaculture Management and Mitigation Strategy (AMMS) where relevant. All efforts should be made to agree the AMMS with those interests. The AMMS should identify management and mitigation measures to ensure that potential adverse impacts of ORE and transmission infrastructure development on seafood/aquaculture activity are, in order of preference, avoided, minimised and mitigated.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective SF4 is considered neutral with respect to European sites. As per Policy Objective OEP1, the FMMS is listed under Appendix C of the SC-DMAP as one of the proposed management plans which any development permission application for a project in the SC-DMAP area should include. The AMMS forms part of the FMMS.	None proposed.
SF 5 Developers of proposed ORE projects and transmission infrastructure shall maintain a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) to facilitate direct, effective, constructive consultation and engagement on an ongoing basis with Irish-registered fishers and wider seafood sector members operating within the SC-DMAP area at all stages of any offshore wind project pre-construction, and during construction, operation and decommissioning.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective SF5 is considered neutral with respect to European sites since it relates to the appointment of a FLO and sets out the remit of the FLO; neither of which would result in any adverse effect on any European site or their qualifying interests.	None proposed.
SF 6 Any FMMS should include a Cable Management Plan (CMP) exploring options and identifying appropriate site-specific, substrate-specific inter-array and offshore transmission cable protection measures that can be installed to mitigate the risk of cable exposure and unintentional cable snagging by seafood/fishing activity. Consideration should be given to prioritising the burial of cables at a suitable depth where possible, as well as other types of cable protection measures compatible with relevant types of fishing for each area.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** With reference to Policy Objective SF3, it has already been concluded that that policy, which relates to FMMS, will have no adverse effects on any European sites. By extension, the same conclusion of no adverse effect is identified with respect to Policy Objective SF6; particularly mindful that the FMMS is one of the documents identified as being required to inform development permission applications for development consents arising from projects delivered via the SC-DMAP.	None proposed.
SF 7 Developers of proposed ORE projects and transmission infrastructure shall engage with potentially impacted seafood sector members and Irish-registered fishers to ensure that risks associated with fishing/seafood activity over the cables are minimised. A cable risk mitigation plan shall be submitted with any application for development involving the laying of cables within the SC-DMAP area and include requirements for fishing trials over the cables and other inspections considered relevant on an appropriately regular basis.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective SF7 is considered neutral with respect to European sites since it does not include or allow for activities which could result in adverse effects on European sites. The Cable Risk Mitigation Plan will be part of any development permission application involving the laying of cables within the SC-DMAP area. Any such planning application would be subject to environmental assessment including AA if required, as set out in Policy MI2 SC-DMAP and any existing regulatory or policy requirements including Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.	None proposed.

6.4.14 Policy Objectives for Tourism and Recreation (T)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
T 1 To support and facilitate coexistence between ORE development and a thriving tourism sector subject to carrying out statutory environmental assessment at plan and project level for these activities as required (which may include SEA, EIA and/or AA) and the outcome of planning and / or licensing processes as relevant	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** The support and facilitation of any plans or projects relating to the coexistence between ORE development and the tourism sector via Policy Objective T1 is subject to carrying out statutory environmental assessment, including AA (if required), of any plans and project arising from this support and facilitation. This qualification ensures that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected.	None proposed.

6.4.15 Policy Objectives for Telecommunications (TEL)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
TEL 1 The SC-DMAP supports the principle of coexistence of ORE development with digital telecommunications infrastructure, subject to carrying out statutory environmental assessment at plan and project level (which may include SEA, EIA and/or AA) and the outcome of planning and licensing processes as relevant. No exclusions should be placed on the deployment, operation or maintenance of subsea telecommunications cables within or around ORE developments or the associated cabling, unless required for safety or environmental reasons. Project route selection for ORE cables should seek to avoid the need for exclusions in the first instance and projects should consult with service providers to understand limitations on their existing infrastructure.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective TEL1 supports the principle of coexistence of offshore wind development with digital telecommunications infrastructure; however this is subject to carrying our statutory environmental assessments at a plan and project level; including AA (if required). Given that the support is subject to such requirements, this will ensure the any plan or project supported by this policy objective can only be adopted or granted subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and, if considered necessary and applicable, Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. This will ensure that this policy objective provides protection to the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.	None proposed.

6.4.16 Policy Objectives for Marine Archaeological Heritage (AH)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
AH 1 ORE surveys, site investigation and development, including associated ORE and transmission infrastructure, should, where relevant, include measures to protect underwater archaeological and cultural heritage in the SC-DMAP area and: (a): Comply with the National Monuments Act as amended, and the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 when commenced and have regard to guidance of the National Monuments Service for assessment(s) to avoid and mitigate impacts with marine archaeological and cultural heritage features. (b): Undertake early consultation with the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the National Monuments Service and engage qualified archaeologist(s) to prepare assessments including an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment and Archaeology Management Plan as relevant. (c): Support the protection of onshore archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage in terrestrial plans and projects in the development of associated onshore infrastructure to enable ORE sites in the SC-DMAP area.	**No adverse effects foreseen on any European sites.** Policy Objective AH1 is considered neutral with respect to European sites since it only seeks protection for underwater archaeological and cultural heritage assets as a result of ORE surveys, site investigations and development. In addition, such surveys, site investigations and development, as they relate to European sites, are also subject to policy protections through the SC-DMAP and existing legislative and consenting requirements, including with respect to Article 6(3) and, if considered necessary and applicable, Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.	None proposed.

6.4.17 Policy Objectives for Land and Sea Interaction (LS)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
LS 1 The SC-DMAP supports the coordination of land and sea interactions and the alignment of terrestrial plans and policy at national, regional, and local level that deliver sustainable onshore infrastructure to enable offshore wind energy in the SC-DMAP area. This support is subject to the carrying out of all statutory environmental assessments at plan and project level (which may include SEA, EIA and/or AA), cumulative and in-combination assessment of plans and projects and the outcome of planning and / or licensing processes as relevant.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective LS1 supports the coordination of land and sea interactions and the alignment of terrestrial plans and policy as national, regional and local level that deliver sustainable onshore infrastructure to enable offshore wind energy within the SC-DMAP area. However, this is subject to carrying out statutory environmental assessments at a plan and project level; including AA. Given that the support is subject to such requirements, this will ensure the any plan or project supported by this policy objective can only be adopted or granted subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and, if necessary, 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. This will ensure that this policy objective provides protection to the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.	None proposed.
LS 2 The SC-DMAP supports the location and siting of onshore infrastructure, enabling ORE within the SC-DMAP area, which takes into account the risks associated with coastal change and flooding, avoids locations that are most at risk such as areas where managed retreat may be necessary and are in accordance with Local Authority Development Plans and Coastal Change Management Plans.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective LS2 supports the locating and siting of onshore infrastructure which takes account of risks associated with coastal change and flooding. No specific plans or projects are identified for onshore infrastructure by the SC-DMAP; however the delivery of such infrastructure is subject to other policies of the SC-DMAP, including LS1 which requires any plan or project seeking to deliver onshore infrastructure would only be supported subject to the carrying out of statutory environmental assessments at a plan and project level; including AA. Given that the support is subject to such requirements, this will ensure the any plan or project, including its location and siting, supported by this policy objective can only be adopted or granted subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and, if necessary, 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. This will ensure that this policy objective provides protection to the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.	None proposed.

6.4.18 Policy Objectives for Ports and Harbours (PH)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
PH 1 The SC-DMAP supports, in accordance with national policy, the alignment of terrestrial planning with marine planning at regional and local level to provide for the sustainable development of port infrastructure that enables the development of ORE within the SC-DMAP. This support is subject to the carrying out of the requisite statutory environmental assessments at plan and project level (which may include SEA, EIA and/or AA) and the outcome of planning and / or licensing processes as relevant.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective PH1 supports the alignment of terrestrial and marine planning at regional level to provide for sustainable development of port infrastructure that enables the development of ORE within the SC-DMAP. However, the support provided is subject to any plans or projects for which support is provided by the policy being subject to the carrying out of statutory environmental assessments; including AA (if required). Given that the support is subject to such requirements, this will ensure the any plan or project, including its location and siting, supported by this policy objective can only be adopted or granted subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and, if considered necessary and applicable, Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. This will ensure that this policy objective provides protection to the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.	None proposed.

6.4.19 Policy Objectives for Shipping (S)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
S 1 Applications for development in the SC-DMAP area and associated survey applications should be subject to consultation with port and harbour authorities and the Maritime Safety Directorate prior to submitting planning or licence applications and any consequent surveys or works shall comply with all required Marine Notices to avoid any disruption to shipping lanes in the SC-DMAP area.	**No adverse effects foreseen on any European sites.** Objective S1 is considered neutral. This objective requires proposed projects under this SC-DMAP to consult with port and harbour authorities, Maritime Safety Directorate and comply with all required Marine Notices to avoid any disruption to shipping lanes in the SC-DMAP area. This consultation will not result in any adverse effects on any European sites.	None proposed.

6.4.20 Policy Objectives for Electricity Transmission System (ETS)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
ETS 1 To prioritize the sustainable development of offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure that supports and enables the sustainable development of offshore wind capacity within the SC-DMAP area, which is considered to be of critical and strategic importance. This objective relates to the development of transmission infrastructure for both grid connected, and non-grid connected ORE projects, as well as projects seeking to connect to another country(s) via hybrid-interconnection.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective ETS1 seeks to prioritise the sustainable development of offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure that supports and enables the sustainable development of offshore wind capacity within the SC-DMAP. No specific plans or projects are identified for such infrastructure by the SC-DMAP; however, the delivery of such infrastructure is subject to other policies of the SC-DMAP, including ETS2 which requires any plan or project seeking to deliver onshore infrastructure would only be supported subject to the carrying out of statutory environmental assessments at a plan and project level; including AA, if required. Given that the support is subject to such requirements, this will ensure the any plan or project, including its location and siting, supported by this policy objective can only be adopted or granted subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and, if necessary, 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. This will ensure that this policy objective provides protection to the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.	None proposed.
ETS 2 To support the integration and alignment of terrestrial planning with marine planning at regional and local level that provides for the sustainable development of transmission infrastructure to enable ORE development in the SC-DMAP area. This support is subject to the carrying out of statutory environmental assessment at plan and project level (which may include SEA, EIA and/or AA) and the outcome of planning and / or licensing processes as relevant.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective ETS2 supports the integration and alignment of terrestrial and marine planning at a regional and local level that provides for the sustainable development of transmission infrastructure to enable ORE development in the SC-DMAP. However, the support provided is subject to any plans or projects for which support is provided by the policy being subject to the carrying out of statutory environmental assessments; including AA (if required). Given that the support is subject to such requirements, this will ensure the any plan or project, including its location and siting, supported by this policy objective can only be adopted or granted subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and, if considered necessary and applicable, Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. This will ensure that this policy objective provides protection to the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.	
ETS 3 To avoid, minimise and mitigate potential associated adverse environmental and social impacts and reduce development costs, existing offshore and onshore infrastructure required to connect offshore wind generation to the onshore electricity system should be utilized to as great an extent as possible, with additional provisions for future proofing offshore transmission assets.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective ETS3 is considered neutral since it just seeks to utilise existing offshore and onshore infrastructure on the basis it will assist in avoiding, minimising and mitigating environmental impacts. Such environmental impacts could also include impacts on European sites.	None proposed.

6.4.21 Policy Objectives for Economic and Employment Growth Potential (EC)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
EC 1 The SC-DMAP supports actions under Government's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy (2024) and through regional and local level plans that support research, innovation, skills development, enterprise, jobs growth and the sustainable development of economic clusters in the offshore renewable energy sector to support the development and operation of ORE projects in the SC-DMAP area. This support is subject to carrying out of all statutory environmental assessment at plan and project level (SEA, EIA and AA) and the outcome of planning and / or licensing processes as relevant.	**No adverse effects on any European sites.** Policy Objective EC1 supports actions that support research, innovation, skills, development, enterprise, jobs growth and sustainable development of economic clusters in the offshore renewable energy sector to support the development and operation of OW projects in the plan area. However, the support provided is subject to any plans or projects for which support is provided by the policy being subject to the carrying out of statutory environmental assessments; including AA. Given that the support is subject to such requirements, this will ensure the any plan or project, including its location and siting, supported by this policy objective can only be adopted or granted subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and, if necessary, 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. This will ensure that this policy objective provides protection to the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.	None proposed.

6.4.22 Policy Objectives for Community Engagement (CE)

Policy Objective	Assessment	Mitigation
CE 1 To facilitate continued engagement with South Coast stakeholders, including local coastal communities and fishers, holders of a MAC in the SC-DMAP Maritime Areas should prepare and publish a Public Engagement Plan concerning all matters relating to the Permitted Maritime Usage.	**No adverse effects on any European sites**. Objective CE 1 is considered neutral with respect to effects on European sites and potentially positive if the published Public Engagement Plan includes engagement with stakeholders relevant to the conservation and management of European sites and their qualifying interests.	None proposed

6.5 In-Combination Effects

The assessment of potential in-combination effects of the Policy Objectives of the draft SC-DMAP with respect to other relevant plans or projects has been completed with reference to EC guidance[22]. With reference to Section 4.2 of that guidance, a proportionate approach has been taken with respect to the in-combination assessment. This approach has been mindful that the draft SC-DMAP is a sub-national plan which sets out Policy Objectives commensurate with the level of detail included within such a plan. It recognises that it provides a framework for ORE projects, and associated transmission infrastructure, to come forward within the SC-DMAP geographical area but where the detail of those projects will only be developed following the adoption of and under the policy framework established by the SC-DMAP. The guidance recognises that site-specific effects will be subject to further analysis at the project level and project development application stage; such analysis and assessment has been built-in to the relevant Policy Objectives of the draft SC-DMAP.

Mindful of the above and that the draft SC-DMAP is a sub-national plan, a proportional in-combination assessment commensurate with the level of detail included in such a plan has been completed. This has focussed on relevant plans rather than plans and projects. The assessed plans are provided in **Table 6-3**.

In line with EC guidance[23], a stepwise approach has been taken to consideration of in-combination effects as follows:

- Identify plans that might act in-combination;
- Identify the types of impact that might occur;
- Define boundaries of the assessment;
- Identify pathways for impact; and
- Impact prediction and assessment.

[22] Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2021).

[23] Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2021).

Table 6-2: Assessment of In-combination Effects

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
EU and International		
8th Environmental Action Programme (2021-2030) The 8th EAP aims to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient, and regenerative economy. It recognises that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on the healthy ecosystems within which we operate and sets out six priority objectives (i) climate neutrality by 2050 (ii) reducing vulnerability to climate change (iii) circular economy (iv) zero-pollution ambition (v) enhancing natural capital and (vi) reducing environmental and climate pressures.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Disturbance to habitats/ species.	As the EAP is aimed at environmental action protection, there is a potential for positive in-combination effects.
The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 The new Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate, and the planet. In the context of the post-COVID-19 pandemic, it aims to build resilience to future threats, including climate change, security of food supplies, forest fires, outbreaks of disease and combating the illegal trade in wildlife. It aims to increase the Natura 2000 network. Additionally, as a part of this strategy a Nature Restoration Law has been proposed by EC in June 2022, that aims to restore ecosystems for people, the climate and the planet. To enable implementation, it also aims to allow better tracking of progress, improving knowledge transfer and emphasising 'respect for nature' in public and business decision-making.	• Increased resilience in habitats and species; • Improved water quality; and • Improved air quality.	There is no potential for in-combination effects arising from this strategy as the primary purpose of the EU Biodiversity Strategy is to halt the loss of habitat and species. Climate change identified as a key threat to biodiversity and transition to renewable energy sources will, in part, respond to climate change and it's impacts and effects, including on the marine environment.
2030 EU Climate and Energy Framework (2014) Sets targets for the period 2020 to 2030:	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality;	The targets for the 2030 EU Climate and Energy Framework focus on the transition to renewable energy which will positively influence the achievement of emission reduction goals. The overall drive is to increase the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and therefore the framework contains measures aimed at increasing electricity interconnection.

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
• Target of 27% renewable energy in the EU; • Increase energy efficiency by 27% by 2020; and • Reaching electricity interconnection target of 15% between EU countries by 2030.	• Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The framework supports decarbonisation and as such the main thrust of the framework is positive as it addresses climate change aspects, however, renewable energies such as wind energy have potential for adverse effects on European sites and protected species. Projects arising from the framework will be subject to SEA and AA processes. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects with draft SC-DMAP.
Paris Agreement (COP21) (adopted 2015) The Paris Agreement (COP21) has an overreaching goal to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels". The Paris Agreement requires economic and social transformation based on best available science to limit global warming. To achieve this goal, signatories of the Paris Agreement are required to set goals and targets in line with the increasingly ambitious climate action stipulated in the Agreement.	• Reduction in Greenhouse gas emissions; • Improved air quality; and • Climate change adaptation.	The Paris Agreement is the overarching policy which encourages the development and submission of each nation's Climate Action Plan. As such, there is no potential for in-combination effects with this Policy, however the Paris Agreement does help to guide these nationally determined contributions.
EU Green Deal 2050 In response to the challenges facing Europe, the European Green Deal was adopted for the EU in December 2019. Termed a new growth strategy based on clean products and technologies, the European Green Deal is committed to working towards a climate-neutral society by 2050. It has an action plan/ roadmap of actions, of which the key objectives are to: increase the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy; as well as to restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It also aims to support innovation of industry to increase circularity.	• Increased resilience in habitats and species; • Improved habitat and species protection; and • Improved air and water quality.	The EU Green Deal 2050 aims to promote the achievement of a climate-neutral society by 2050 by encouraging the advancement in green technology and the transition into a circular economy. There is potential for positive in-combination effects going forward.
Circular Economy Action Plan 2020 This Action Plan maps out 54 actions, as well as four legislative proposals on waste, containing targets for landfill, reuse, and	• Alterations to water quality; and • Alteration to air quality; and • Improved waste management.	The circular Economy Action Plan aims to promote more efficient management of waste and develop more effective reuse and recycling methods towards the achievement of a circular economy. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects.

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
recycling, to be achieved by 2030 and 2035 and introducing new obligations, such as separate collection of municipal textile and biowaste. The plan aimed to cover the full economic cycle from production to consumption, repair and remanufacturing, to waste management and secondary raw materials.		
Energy Roadmap 2050 This roadmap does not set specific energy targets at this point but does aim to achieve an 80% to 95% reduction in greenhouse gases compared to 1990 levels by 2050.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The key aim of the Roadmap is a guide to a low carbon Europe. This plan will be complimentary to the draft SC-DMAP and as such there is no potential for in-combination effects, however there is potential for positive influence.
Action Plan 2.0 for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic area (EC, 2020) This is the successor to the EU's Atlantic Action Plan 2013-2020. This is "*An updated action plan for a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the European Union Atlantic area*." It covers four pillars of: ports as gateways and hubs for the blue economy; blue skills of the future and ocean literacy; marine renewable energy; and healthy ocean and resilient coasts. Under the third and fourth pillars are the environmental goals of: Goal 5: 'The promotion of carbon neutrality through marine renewable energy', Goal 6 'Stronger coastal resilience' and Goal 7 'The fight against marine pollution'.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The Action Plan 2.0 for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic area aims to plan for a sustainable, resilient and competitive blue economy in the European Union Atlantic area including goals to promote marine renewable energy, enhance coastal resilience and tackle against marine pollution. There is potential for positive in-combination effects going forward
Renewable Energy Directive [RED] EU 2018/2001 (recast to 2030, RED II) This Directive came into force in December 2018 and sets a target of at least 32% for	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation;	The Renewable Energy Directive sets a target of at least 32% for renewable energy and as such the main thrust of the Directive is positive as it addresses climate change aspects, however renewable energy such as wind energy have potential for adverse effects on

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
renewable energy, at EU-wide level, by 2030. The proposal to revise this directive in July 2021 seeks to raise the level of ambition to deliver on the Green Deal and intends to revise this target to at least 40% by 2030.	• Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	European sites and protected species. Projects arising from the plan will be subject to SEA and AA processes. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
Renewable Energy Directive [RED] EU 2018/2001 (recast to 2030, RED II) The revised directive (RED III) was published in the Official Journal on 31 October, and entered into force on 20 November 2023. It sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The Renewable Energy Directive sets a revised and more ambitious target of at least 42.5% for renewable energy and as such the main thrust of the Directive is positive as it addresses climate change aspects, however renewable energy such as wind energy have potential for adverse effects on European sites and protected species. Projects arising from the plan will be subject to SEA and AA processes. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
REPowerEU Plan (EC, 2022) This plan is focused on rapidly reducing the European Union's reliance on Russian fossil fuels by progressing the clean energy transition and fostering increased collaboration throughout and across Member States to create a more resilient European energy system. REPowerEU expands the 'Fit for 55' proposals by setting out additional actions to save energy by reducing demand and consumption, diversify energy sources and supplies, accelerate fossil fuel substitution, and improve investment frameworks facilitating reforms, faster permitting, and innovation.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The REPowerEU Plan supports the reduction of the EU's reliance of Russian fossil fuels by progressing the clean energy transition and as such the main thrust of the Plan is positive as it addresses climate change aspects, however, clean energy transition such as wind energy have potential for adverse effects on European sites and protected species. Projects arising from the Plan will be subject to SEA and AA processes. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 The primary purpose of this Directive and the various pieces of national legislation that	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat degradation; • Habitat Rehabilitation / Enhancement;	The primary purpose of the WFD is to improve ecological status and includes achievement of objectives of the Habitats and Birds Directives. The third cycle draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 has been published together with a NIS including mitigation to offset negative effects. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects.

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
have been implemented through the implementation of River Basin Management Plans, is to achieve good status for all water bodies, with no deterioration in water body status. The RBMP sets out the Programmes of Measures (PoM) to achieve the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).	• Habitat/species fragmentation; • Disturbance to key species; • Changes to favourable conservation status of key species; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc); • Climate change; and • In-combination impacts	
UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS, 2011)[24] The MPS is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment in the UK. It contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK marine area. The MPS and Marine Plans sets out a plan-led system in the UK for marine activities. Further guidance with respect to the MPS was published during January 2021 following the UK's exit from the European Union[25]. Separate Marine Plans have subsequently been published for UK marine waters; these include those under English and Welsh jurisdictions. With respect to England, separate Marine Plans have been prepared; including for South West of England. These plans are considered further below.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat degradation; • Habitat Rehabilitation / Enhancement; • Habitat/species fragmentation; • Disturbance to key species; • Changes to favourable conservation status of key species; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc); • Climate change; and • In-combination impacts	The MPS has been subject to, and informed by, an Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS); which incorporated the requirements of a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA). The MPS was also subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA; equivalent to Natura Impact Statement) with reference to the EU Habitats Directive. The HRA concluded it was not possible to exclude the possibility that the integrity of one or more European sites could be adversely affected by activities identified in the MPS. For that reason, an assessment of alternative solutions and Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) was undertaken. The MPS states that all Marine Plans and projects carried out in accordance with the MPS may be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure. If, following this procedure, an appropriate assessment is required and this concludes that the Marine Plan or project may affect the integrity of any European site, issues relating to IROPI, site integrity and compensation would need to be addressed in accordance with the relevant legislation and European Commission Guidance (which was applicable at the time the MPS was prepared. Since the MPS was published and assessed, the UK is no longer a Member State of the EU, however the assessment process remains broadly similar. As noted below, the UK Marine Plans for the South West and Wales have all subsequently concluded that the activities emerging from those Plans will have no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects with the draft SC-DMAP; recognising that this will need to also be considered by any project-level assessment completed for projects emerging from the draft SC-DMAP.

[24] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a795700ed915d042206795b/pb3654-marine-policy-statement-110316.pdf

[25] Guidance to the UK Marine Policy Statement from 1 January 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
UK South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plan (June, 2021)[26] The South West Marine Plan introduced a strategic approach to planning within the English inshore and offshore waters between the Severn Estuary border with Wales and the River Dart in Devon. It helps to deliver at a regional level the high level marine objectives set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement; as detailed above. The South West Marine Plan is stated as providing a clear, evidence-based approach to inform decision making by the marine users and regulators on where, when or how activities might take place within the Marine Plan area. The Plan includes policies in relation to renewable energy, cables, biodiversity and climate change.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat degradation; • Habitat Rehabilitation / Enhancement; • Habitat/species fragmentation; • Disturbance to key species; • Changes to favourable conservation status of key species; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc); • Climate change; and • In-combination impacts	The Marine Plan was subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)[27], which concluded that subject to the mitigation measures identified through the HRA, the Marine Plan would not result in any adverse effects on the integrity of any European site. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects with the draft SC-DMAP; recognising that this will need to also be considered by any project-level assessment completed for projects emerging from the draft SC-DMAP. .
Welsh National Marine Plan (November, 2019)[28] The Welsh National Marine Plan for the inshore and offshore Welsh marine plan regions and has been prepared in conformity with the UK Marine Policy Statement. It includes sectoral policies with respect to energy, including offshore wind, and subsea cabling.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat degradation; • Habitat Rehabilitation / Enhancement; • Habitat/species fragmentation; • Disturbance to key species; • Changes to favourable conservation status of key species;	The Marine Plan was subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)[29], which concluded that subject to the mitigation measures identified through the HRA, the Marine Plan would not result in any adverse effects on the integrity of any European site. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects with the draft SC-DMAP; recognising that this will need to also be considered by any project-level assessment completed for projects emerging from the draft SC-DMAP. .

[26] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60f6f71ce90e0764cfc22a78/FINAL_South_West_Marine_Plan__1_.pdf

[27] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60d200fed3bf7f4bd323e2cf/HRA-AA-SW_ACC.pdf

[28] https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/welsh-national-marine-plan-document_0.pdf

[29] https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/welsh-national-marine-plan-habitats-regulation-assessment.pdf

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
	• Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc); • Climate change; and • In-combination impacts	
National		
National Planning Framework Project Ireland 2040 (2018) The National Planning Framework is a long-term strategy for the next 20 years and it will focus on ensuring compatibility between future growth of cities/ towns within Ireland alongside environmental sustainability. It is intended that the National Planning Framework will both provide the focus to guide and inform future planning and set the framework for integrated investment decisions. It is intended that the national policy will be detailed through the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies to set out long term national, regional and local development frameworks from within which sectors will work together to ensure proper planning and sustainable development. Both the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies are subject to the AA process.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alteration to air quality; and • Disturbance.	It is a policy of the National Planning Framework to ensure the resilience of our natural resources and cultural assets. Linkage to wider policies such as for European sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the WFD is recognised and the need to set high level planning policies in protecting and making responsible use of our natural environment. The plan has been subject to AA and includes clear policy on avoidance of impacts to European sites. There is no potential for in-combination effects.
National Development Plan 2021-2030 (2021) The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF). This will guide national, regional, and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	Given the nature of the capital investment most of the projects referenced and funded under NDP have been or will be subject to EIA/AA. The NDP does not confer planning, it identifies strategic need. There is no potential for in-combination effects.

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024 This Plan sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals aims to increase Irelands ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is no potential for in-combination effects.
Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plans (OREDP I and draft OREDP II) Published in 2014, this plan had set out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. The plan provided a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources. This plan is currently guiding the State's policy approach to achieving 5GW of ORE by 2030, mostly through fixed-bottom wind turbines in relatively shallow waters of up to 70 metres off the east and southeast coasts. The draft OREDP II was intended to will provide a high-level framework for the long-term, sustainable and planned development of Ireland's immense wind, wave and tidal renewable energy resources.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Collison risk • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	In the interim review of OREDP I, specific note is made of the development of the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site. As some ESB cable needed to go through Natura 2000 site, an AA screening was completed, and underground options were applied to mitigate impacts on local wildlife and biodiversity. At project level there is therefore evidence that statutory assessment is being undertaken. The draft OREDP II must have to have regard to the NMPF (see below) as a sectoral marine plan including the marine protection policies included in the NMPF and this NIS. As such no potential for in-combination effects.
National Marine Planning Framework (2021) The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives, and marine planning policies for each marine activity.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and	The Plan makes reference to the designation and initiation of Marine Protected Area regimes. Similarly, to the National Planning Framework there is a recognised need for responsible use of national marine resources. The plan was subject to AA/EIA, guided by best scientific knowledge and policy. There is no potential for in-combination effects.

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
	• Introduction or spread of invasive species.	
Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) This is the second annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2019. This plan is the first to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and following the introduction, in 2022, of economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. There are six vital high impact sectors that are focused upon in this plan: Powering renewables Building better Transforming how we travel Making family farms more sustainable Greening business and enterprise Under powering renewables, the plan aims to accelerate the delivery of offshore wind and facilitate at least 7GW of offshore wind by 2030 (with 2 GW earmarked for green hydrogen production).	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. • Climate resilience	While there is potential for in-combination effects as it sets out actions which directly relate to the SC-DMAP through targets for ORE, CAP23 was subject to AA. Many of the policies are aligned with actions promoted through the OREDP and similar sectoral plans which include the necessary mitigation to avoid adverse effects. The main thrust of the plan however is positive and there is potential for positive in-combination effects as it supports long term resilience to climate change.
Draft Climate Action Plan 2024 This Climate Action Plan sets out further policies, measures and actions to close this gap and ensure compliance with our carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings as adopted by the Government in 2022.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. • Climate resilience	While there is potential for in-combination effects as it sets out actions which directly relate to SC-DMAP through targets for ORE, CAP24 is undergoing AA. Many of the policies are aligned with actions promoted through the OREDP and similar sectoral plans which include the necessary mitigation to avoid adverse effects. The main thrust of the plan however is positive and there is potential for positive in-combination effects as it supports long term resilience to climate change.
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (2020)	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation;	The three regional strategies include clear policy and supporting actions to avoid and minimise impacts on European sites. They include similar commitments to only implement the policy

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
The three regional strategies seek to interpret and implement the NPF at a regional level.	• Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alteration to air quality; and • Habitat/ species disturbance.	base within the carrying capacity of the receiving environment as greater detail is known through the planning hierarchy. There is no potential for in-combination effects.
National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 The plan brings together energy and climate planning and describes how Ireland will achieve the EUs main climate targets. The plan must cover the key areas of (i) energy security; (ii) internal energy market; (iii) energy efficiency; (iv) decarbonisation; and (v) research, innovation, and competitiveness.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to water quality and/ or water movement; • Habitat/species disturbance; and • Decarbonisation.	The National Energy and Climate Plan supports decarbonisation and as such the main thrust of the Plan is positive as it addresses climate change aspects, however renewable energies such as wind energy have potential for adverse effects on European sites and protected species. In the short to medium term, the move toward electrification of transport and heat will still rely on non-renewable sources of electricity generation. Projects arising from the Plan will be subject to SEA and AA processes. There is no potential for in-combination effects.
Draft Updated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to water quality and/ or water movement; • Habitat/species disturbance; and • Decarbonisation.	The updated draft of National Energy and Climate Plan continues to support decarbonisation and sets criteria for which policies and measures can be included in the modelling to help achieve climate and energy targets. As such the main thrust of the Plan is positive as it addresses climate change aspects, however renewable energies such as wind energy have potential for adverse effects on European sites and protected species. In the short to medium term, the move toward electrification of transport and heat will still rely on non-renewable sources of electricity generation. Projects arising from the plan will be subject to SEA and AA processes. There is no potential for in-combination effects.
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework The National Climate Change Adaptation Framework was published in 2018. It sets out how Ireland is to meet its adaptation objectives under the Kyoto Protocol and provides the policy context for the national response to achieving the objectives in a strategic manner. The Framework also requires Local Authorities, relevant agencies and Government Departments to prepare and publish draft adaptation plans. With the establishment of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, there is now a statutory basis on which National Climate Change Adaptation Frameworks and Sectoral Adaptation Plans	• Increased resilience in habitats and species; • Improved habitat and species protection; • Improved air quality; • Reduction in greenhouse gases; and • Improved climate change resilience.	Given the objectives of the Framework are to provide effective policy responses for Ireland to meet the overarching objectives within the Kyoto protocol, there is potential for positive in-combination effects.

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
are to be established. Under this, a suite of sectoral adaptation plans have been published in 2019.		
National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 – 2030 (2024) In response to the requirements set out in Article 6 of the UN Convention of Biological Diversity 1992, the first Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was prepared by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, subsequently revised in 2011. The aims are to achieve Ireland's Vision for Biodiversity through addressing issues ranging from improving the management of protected areas to increasing awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Ireland's fourth iteration of the BAP for conserving and restoring Ireland's biodiversity covers the period 2023 – 2030.	• Increased resilience in habitats and species; • Increase national collaboration on the management of protected areas; • Biodiversity protection; and • Improve environmental research.	The National Biodiversity Action Plan aims at improving the conservation and protection of the country's biodiversity. There is no potential for in-combination effects.
Biodiversity Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan (2019) The framework provides strategic focus to ensure adaptation measures are taken across different sectors and levels of government to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. There is a requirement for each government department to prepare sectoral plans. The then Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has completed this in relation to Biodiversity. The Biodiversity CCAP sets out the key challenges for biodiversity and the actions needed to increase resilience of our native flora and fauna to the effects of climate change	• Increase resilience in habitats and species; • Improved agricultural practices; • Water quality; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The Biodiversity Climate Change Adaptation Plan aims to identify adaptation options that will help to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services from the impacts of changing climate and to enable ecosystems to play their role in increasing resilience to climate change. There is no potential for in-combination effects.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	• Increase resilience in habitats and species;	Given the focus of the Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs focus on the effective management of protected areas and wildlife resources, there is no potential for in-combination effects.

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
The NPWS produces a draft conservation plan for each SAC, SPA and NHA. Each plan lists the wildlife resources of the area, the current human uses, any conflicts between the two, and strategies for retaining the conservation value. These documents are made available on the NPWS website and to interested parties for a consultation period, following which the final version of the conservation plan is completed. It is intended that plans will be reviewed every 5 years. It is expected that these plans will be consulted/referenced during the preparation of management plans for any renewable energy development within and nearby the nature conservation site.	• Increase national collaboration on the management of protected areas; • Biodiversity protection; and • Improve environmental research.	
Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025 The plan sets out an approach to using the wastes and side-streams from various sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. The aims are to support a circular and regenerative bioeconomy. Such a system has the potential to reduce GHG emissions and create new opportunities and diversification activities and the potential to replace fossil-fuel based resources with bio-based ones, such as the creation of bioenergy, biofertilisers, biopackaging etc.	• Improved air quality; • Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; • Improved food security; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; and • Changed in land use/ land cover.	The plan sets out a number of actions related to education, developing initiatives/strategies, seeking funding, identifying markets/pathways, offering supports and developing opportunities related to bio-based products and services, and identifying training needs/skills. There is potential for positive in-combination effects as circular economy principles are in line with that supported by the draft SC-DMAP.
National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure in Transport 2017-2030 Supports the provision of refuelling infrastructure for alternative fuels, common technical standards, and appropriate consumer information. The alternative fuel options could include electricity, hydrogen, biofuels, and natural gas.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Alterations to air quality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and	This plan underwent SEA and AA. There is potential for positive in-combination effects in relation to the production and generation of alternative fuels which could have resultant impacts such as reduced air emissions. This plan would not be expected to conflict with any aspects of the draft SC-DMAP but to positively contributing to reducing the emissions arising from ORE development.

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
	• Introduction or spread of invasive species.	
Local		
Cork County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. • Climate resilience	The plan sets out policies in support of sustainable ORE development which is positive and therefore, there is potential for positive in-combination effects as it supports long term resilience to climate change. It is also to note that this plan was subjected to AA and which concluded no adverse effects on the site integrity of any European sites.
Waterford City and County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. • Climate resilience	The plan sets out policies in support of sustainable ORE development which is positive and therefore, there is potential for positive in-combination effects as it supports long term resilience to climate change. It is also to note that this plan was subjected to AA and which concluded no adverse effects on the site integrity of any European sites.
Wexford County Council Climate Action Plan 2023-2029	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and	The plan sets out policies in support of sustainable ORE development which is positive and therefore, there is potential for positive in-combination effects as it supports long term resilience to climate change. It is also to note that this plan was subjected to AA and which concluded no adverse effects on the site integrity of any European sites.

SC-DMAP In-combination with	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
	• Introduction or spread of invasive species. • Climate resilience	

7 MITIGATION MEASURES

Following the assessment of the Policy Objectives, and associated measures, contained in the SC-DMAP no potential adverse effects on site integrity have been identified with reference to the European sites, or their respective qualifying interests, identified in **Section 4** of this assessment with reference to their published site Conservation Objectives. No further mitigation measures have been identified as required to enable this conclusion to be reached with respect to the draft SC-DMAP.

8 PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS: DRAFT SC-DMAP

The draft SC-DMAP is a strategic, sub-national Plan which provides the policy framework for the delivery of ORE, via fixed offshore wind, within the SC-DMAP area. It has been informed by the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) and, with respect to terrestrial matters, by the National Planning Framework (NPF). Both the NMPF and NPF are National Plans which are published and have been subject to their own environmental assessment, including with respect to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

With reference to Article 6(3), this Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared to consider the potential of the draft SC-DMAP, via its Policy Objectives, to adversely affect any European site, with regard to their qualifying interests, associated conservation objectives and their overall site integrities. It has been concluded that the draft SC-DMAP will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of any European Sites either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

Subject to the implementation of its Policy Objectives, the Plan will ensure that any plans or projects which are bought forward under the SC-DMAP will ensure that the coherence of the Natura 2000 network will be protected. In addition, the draft SC-DMAP includes a number of Policy Objectives which are positive with respect to the Natura 2000 network which will, for instance, assist in discharging duties with respect to Articles 6(1) and 6(2) of the Habitats Directive and assist in robust assessment of plans or projects with respect to Articles 6(3) and, if necessary, 6(4) of the Directive. It will also deliver measures which will compliment protection and management of European sites and their qualifying interests (*e.g.* via project-specific Nature Enhancement and Rehabilitation Plans).

9 NEXT STEPS

The next step in the process is wider public consultation on the draft SC-DMAP, the accompanying SEA Environmental Report and this NIS. Where changes are proposed to the draft SC-DMAP as a result of consultation, these will be assessed, and this NIS will be updated to reflect the draft SC-DMAP proposed to be made.

Prior to making the SC-DMAP, the Competent Authority for the draft SC-DMAP (MECC) must consider the updated NIS and any other relevant information and, for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and its application through the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, as amended, must determine whether the draft SC-DMAP either individually, or in-combination with any other plan or project, would adversely affect the integrity of any European site. Only after having determined that the draft SC-DMAP shall not adversely affect the integrity of a European sites, or subject to IROPI, can the draft SC-DMAP be made.

Making a submission / observation

Written submission or observation on the draft SC-DMAP and associated environmental documents can be made via:

1. The **dedicated online consultation platform** at: https://www.gov.ie/southcoastdmap/
2. **E-mail** to the following address: southcoastdmap@DECC.gov.ie
3. **By writing** to the following address:

International and Offshore Energy Division,

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

29-31 Adelaide Road

Dublin 2

D02 X285

These submissions/ observations will be taken into consideration before finalisation of the SC-DMAP. Early responses would be appreciated to allow more time to clarify and resolve issues that may arise.

Data Protection

DECC are committed to engaging with stakeholders in a clear, open and transparent manner. Any person or organisation can make a submission in relation to this consultation. DECC will consider all submissions and feedback. Your response to this consultation is subject to:

- The Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI)
- The Access to Information on the Environment Regulations 2007-2018 (AIE)
- The Data Protection Act 2018

Publishing of responses

DECC intend to publish the contents of all submissions received to the consultation on their website. DECC will redact (remove) personal data before publication.

Please indicate any sensitive information

In responding to this consultation, clearly indicate where your response contains any information which you would not wish to be released under FOI, AIE or otherwise published. This can include:

- Personal information
- Commercially sensitive information
- Confidential information

Read DECC's Data Privacy Notice

DECC would like to draw your attention to their Data Privacy Notice which explains:

- How and when DECC collect personal data

- Why DECC do so
- How DECC treat this information
- Your rights in relation to the collection of personal information
- How you can exercise those rights

10 REFERENCES

NPWS (2011a) Conservation Objectives: Carnsore Point SAC 002269. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2011b) Conservation Objectives: Hook Head SAC 000764. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2011c) Conservation Objectives: Saltee Islands SAC 000707 and Saltee Islands SPA 004002. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2012a) Conservation Objectives: Bannow Bay SAC 000697. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2012b) Conservation Objectives: Bannow Bay SPA 004033. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2012c) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater Estuary SPA 004028. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

NPWS (2012d) Conservation Objectives: Dungarvan Harbour SPA 004032. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013a) Conservation Objectives: Tramore Back Strand SPA 004027. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013b) Conservation Objectives: Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC 000671. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014a) Conservation Objectives: Ballycotton Bay SPA 004022. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014b) Conservation Objectives: Ballyteige Burrow SAC 000696. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014c) Conservation Objectives: Ballyteige Burrow SPA 004020. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014d) Conservation Objectives: Cork Harbour SPA 004030. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014e) Conservation Objectives: Courtmacsherry Bay SPA 004219. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2014f) Conservation Objectives: Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC 001230. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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NPWS (2015b) Conservation Objectives: Ballymacoda Bay SPA 004023. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2016a) Conservation Objectives: Ardmore Head SAC 002123. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

NPWS (2016b) Conservation Objectives: Helvick Head SAC 000665. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives: Tacumshin Lake SAC 000709. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Lady's Island Lake SAC 000704. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2022a) Conservation objectives for Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA [004192]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2022b) Conservation objectives for Keeragh Islands SPA [004118]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2022c) Conservation objectives for Lady's Island Lake SPA [004009]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2022d) Conservation objectives for Mid-Waterford Coast SPA [004193]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2022e) Conservation objectives for Old Head of Kinsale SPA [004021]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2022f) Conservation objectives for Seven Heads SPA [004191]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2022g) Conservation objectives for Sovereign Islands SPA [004124]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2022h) Conservation objectives for Tacumshin Lake SPA [004092]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2024a) Addition of Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin as new Qualifying Interests and the addition of an Activity Requiring Consent to Hook Head Special Area of Conservation 000764 in County Wexford. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2024b) Addition of Harbour Porpoise as a new Qualifying Interest and the addition of an Activity Requiring Consent to Carnsore Point Special Area of Conservation 002269 in County Wexford. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

NPWS (2024c) Conservation Objectives: Seas off Wexford SPA 004237. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

S.I. No. 391/2021 - European Union Conservation of Wild Birds (Cork Harbour Special Protection Area 004030) Regulations 2021

Appendix A
Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Provided Under Separate Cover

Appendix B
SACs in the Zone of Influence of SC-DMAP

Appendix B Table 1: List of identified SACs in the Zone of Influence of SC-DMAP

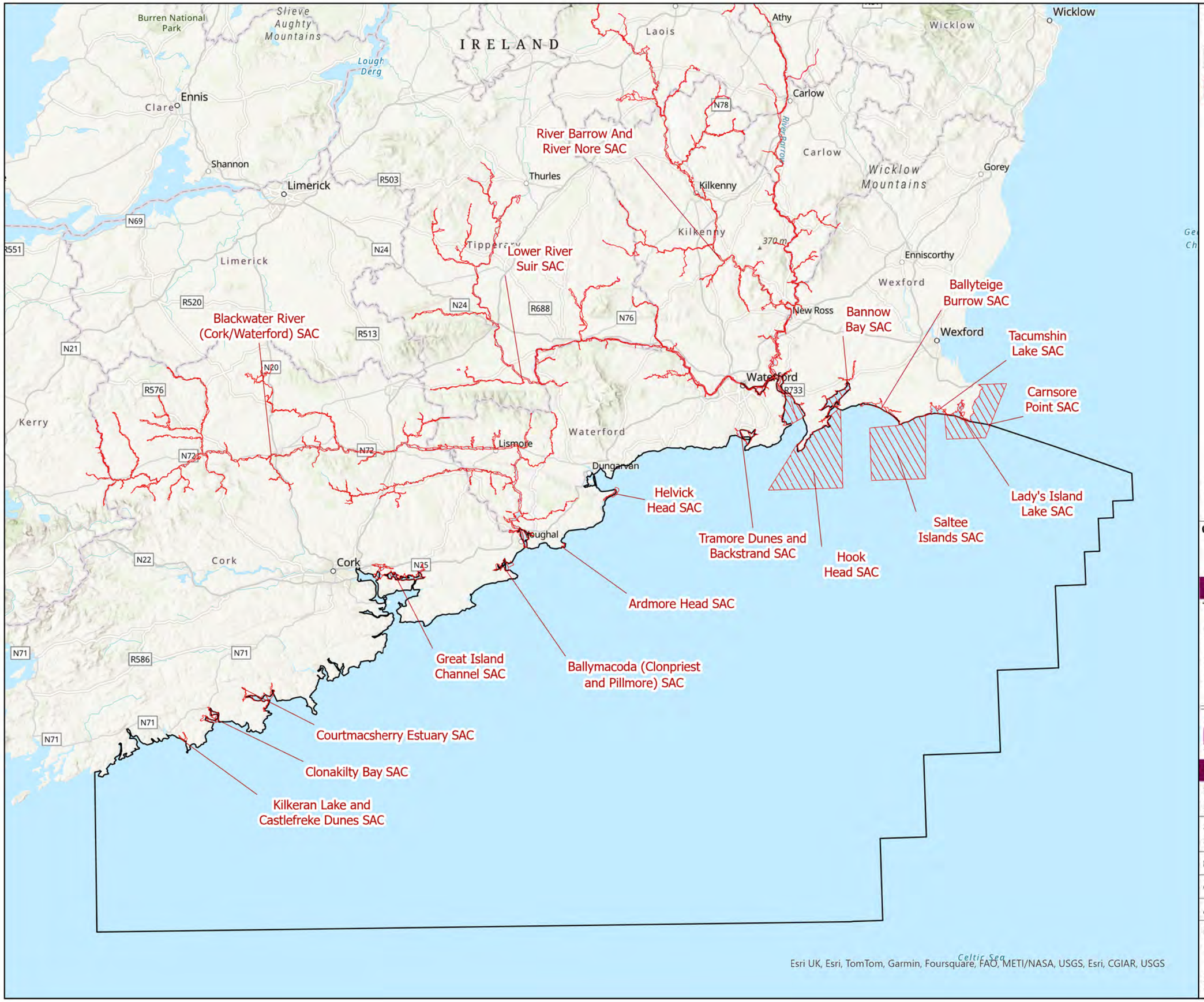
Site		Distance (km) to			From Study Area					
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site Direction	Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	5km inland	50km marine buffer	Otter	Anadromous fish and pearl mussel	Cetacean	Pinniped
IE000077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000665	Helvick Head SAC	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000696	Ballyteige Burrow SAC	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000697	Bannow Bay SAC	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000704	Lady's Island Lake SAC	0.00	0.00	NE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000707	Saltee Islands SAC	0.00	0.00	N	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
IE000709	Tacumshin Lake SAC	0.00	0.00	N	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000764	Hook Head SAC	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
IE001230	Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	0.00	0.00	W	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE002123	Ardmore Head SAC	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE002162	River Barrow And River Nore SAC	0.00	0.00	N - NW	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
IE002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	0.00	0.00	N - NW	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
IE002269	Carnsore Point SAC	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
IE001058	Great Island Channel SAC	0.98	0.00	N	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000091	Clonakilty Bay SAC	9.83	0.00	W	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE001061	Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC	16.66	0.00	W	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE001070	Myross Wood SAC	30.17	0.03	W	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE001547	Castletownshend SAC	31.92	0.08	W	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC	39.23	0.65	W	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No

Site		Distance (km) to			From Study Area						
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site Direction	Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	5km inland	50km marine buffer	Otter	Anadromous fish and pearl mussel	Cetacean	Pinniped
IE000101	Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC	45.39	6.99	W	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
IE002161	Long Bank SAC	10.13	9.48	NE	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE002953	Blackwater Bank SAC	10.31	9.48	NE	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
IE000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	12.04	12.09	W	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
IE000710	Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC	17.24	17.31	N	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE002280	Dunbeacon Shingle SAC	58.40	24.28	W	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE002281	Reen Point Shingle SAC	61.90	27.34	W	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000102	Sheep's Head SAC	61.72	28.41	S	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE001040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	66.32	28.51	W	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000090	Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC	56.48	30.95	W	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
IE002189	Farranamanagh Lough SAC	67.51	31.66	W	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE001741	Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC	33.37	33.38	N	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC	76.29	38.20	W	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC	39.82	39.81	N	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
IE002137	Lower River Suir SAC	3.84	0.00	N - NW	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
IE002324	Glendine Wood SAC	0.91	1.84	NW	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
IE002327	Belgica Mound Province SAC	2.30	2.30	W	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE002171	Bandon River SAC	25.97	14.76	W	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	50.43	43.66	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002158	Kenmare River SAC	65.34	44.25	NW	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
IE001879	Glanmore Bog SAC	76.10	45.22	W	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002173	Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	71.89	50.74	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE000343	Castlemaine Harbour SAC	74.26	60.94	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	66.37	64.49	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

Site		Distance (km) to			From Study Area						
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site Direction	Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	5km inland	50km marine buffer	Otter	Anadromous fish and pearl mussel	Cetacean	Pinniped
IE000375	Mount Brandon SAC	110.29	91.64	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002172	Blasket Islands SAC	127.60	102.05	W	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	117.79	118.56	N	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	132.51	130.13	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE003015	Codling Fault Zone SAC	133.06	132.42	N	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE000204	Lambay Island SAC	143.66	144.42	N	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE000213	Inishmore Island SAC	160.78	154.89	NW	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE000297	Lough Corrib SAC	153.43	155.94	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002034	Connemara Bog Complex SAC	168.31	162.79	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002111	Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC	172.06	166.26	NW	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE002008	Maumturk Mountains SAC	194.90	189.30	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002031	The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC	202.11	196.37	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002298	River Moy SAC	201.64	202.65	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE001932	Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC	212.34	207.76	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002998	West Connacht Coast SAC	214.52	208.61	NW	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE001898	Unshin River SAC	225.82	219.32	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE001976	Lough Gill SAC	235.88	229.66	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002144	Newport River SAC	231.76	232.23	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
FR5302015	Mers Celtiques - Talus du golfe de Gascogne	259.85	233.69	S	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE000534	Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC	239.92	238.15	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	247.31	241.00	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE000428	Lough Melvin SAC	249.12	243.58	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE000458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	245.07	246.57	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
FR2502022	Nord Bretagne DH	269.34	252.85	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
IE000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC	262.45	256.13	N	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

Site		Distance (km) to			From Study Area						
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site Direction	Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	5km inland	50km marine buffer	Otter	Anadromous fish and pearl mussel	Cetacean	Pinniped
IE002301	River Finn SAC	268.79	263.87	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE000500	Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC	265.65	267.62	NW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE000163	Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC	277.63	272.64	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE000197	West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC	294.52	289.36	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002047	Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC	304.36	299.38	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE002176	Leannan River SAC	308.51	303.73	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
IE000140	Fawnboy Bog/Lough Nacung SAC	318.13	313.17	N	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
FR5300018	Ouessant-Molène	338.08	314.15	S	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5300017	Abers - Côte des légendes	337.44	315.75	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5300009	Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles	333.46	317.52	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5302016	Récifs du talus du golfe de Gascogne	358.57	321.02	S	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5300015	Baie de Morlaix	345.20	326.62	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5300010	Tregor Goëlo	350.42	336.35	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5302006	Côtes de Crozon	375.89	353.24	S	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5302007	Chaussée de Sein	384.69	359.62	S	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR2500084	Récifs et landes de la Hague	368.93	359.86	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR2502019	Anse de Vauville	374.63	365.64	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR2502018	Banc et récifs de Surtainville	387.00	378.84	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR2500085	Récifs et marais arrière-littoraux du Cap Lévi à la Pointe de Saire	398.94	388.93	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5300011	Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel	409.63	398.45	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5300066	Baie de Saint-Brieuc - Est	418.60	405.11	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR2502020	Baie de Seine occidentale	423.40	413.36	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR2500079	Chausey	426.13	418.15	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5300012	Baie de Lancieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard	437.03	424.77	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR5300061	Estuaire de la Rance	451.25	439.62	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

Site		Distance (km) to			From Study Area						
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site Direction	Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	5km inland	50km marine buffer	Otter	Anadromous fish and pearl mussel	Cetacean	Pinniped
FR2500077	Baie du Mont Saint Michel	455.53	445.19	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR2502021	Baie de Seine orientale	488.91	477.76	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR2300139	Littoral Cauchois	506.50	494.66	SE	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR3100478	Falaises du Cran aux Oeufs et du Cap Gris-Nez, Dunes du Chatelet, Marais de Tardinghen et Dunes de Wissant	553.85	531.42	E	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
FR2200346	Estuaires et littoral picards (baies de Somme et d'Authie)	567.60	546.24	E	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No



Legend

- SC-DMAP Proposal Area
- Special Area of Conservation

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

N

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South Coast DMAP

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Appendix B
Figure 1: Distribution of SACs within SC-DMAP Study Area

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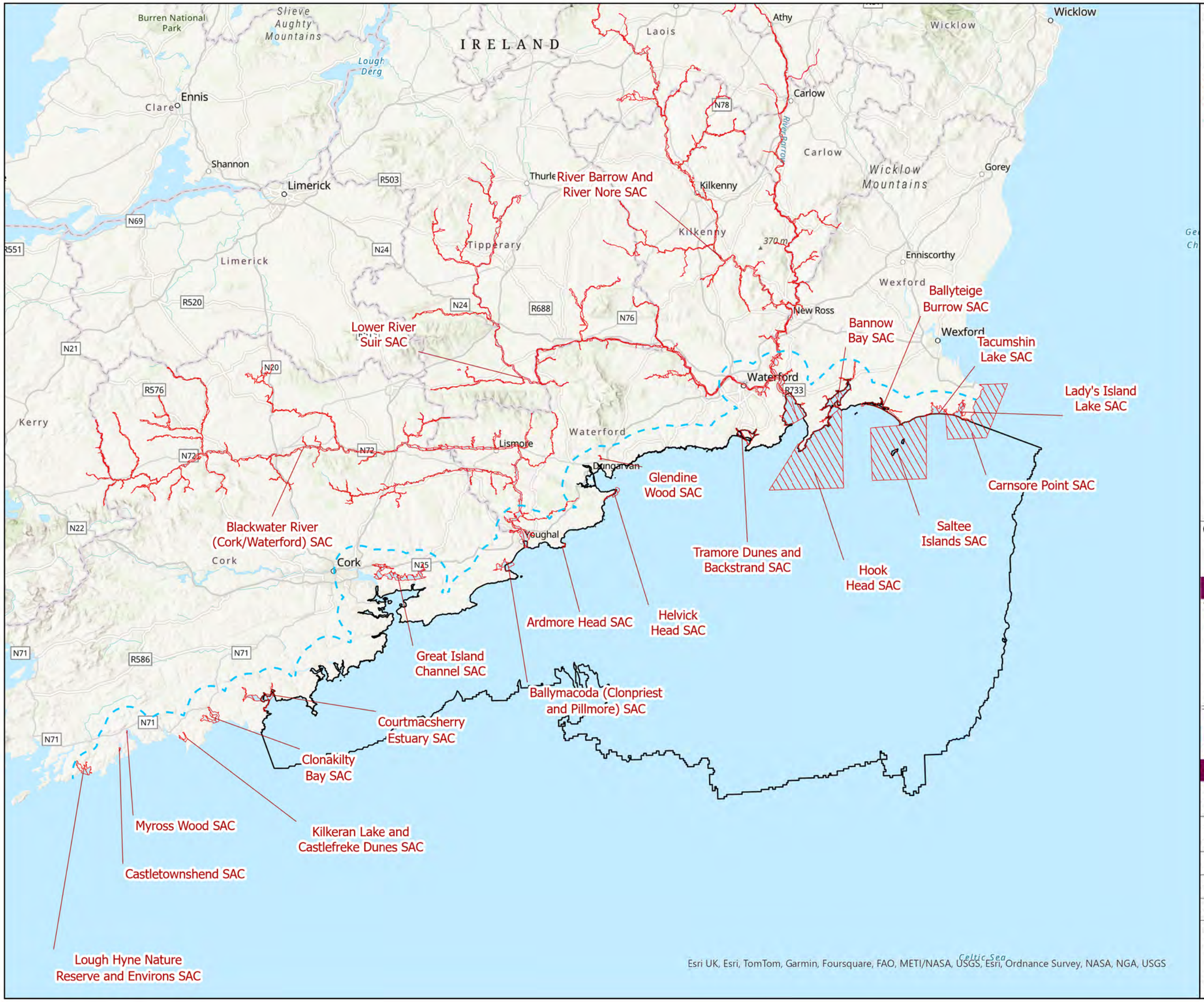

Legend

- SC-DMAP Study Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Study Area 5km inland buffer

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

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Title

Appendix B
Figure 2: Inland SACs within 5km of the SC-DMAP Study Area

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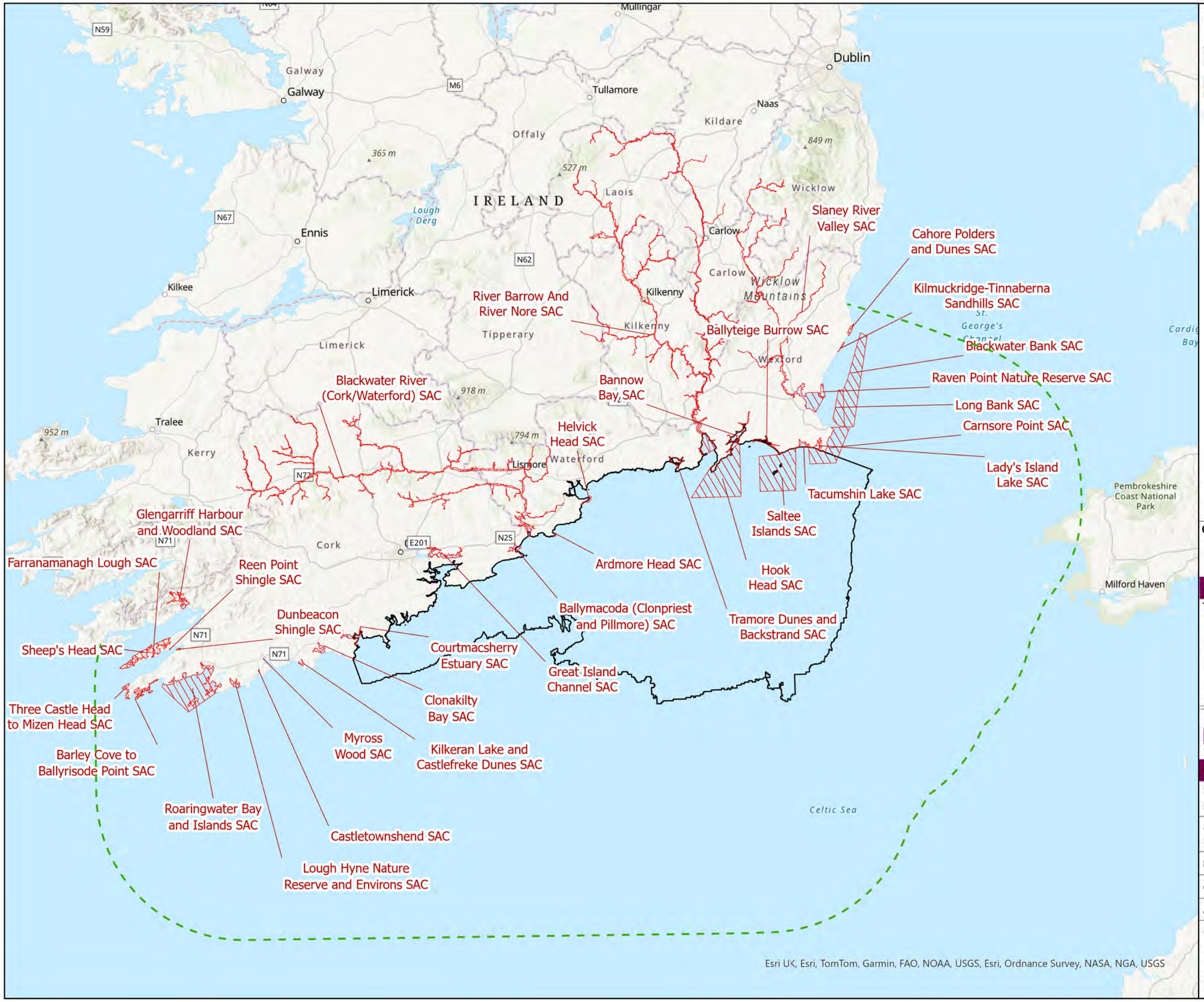

Legend

- SC-DMAP Study Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Study Area 50km marine buffer

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

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Appendix B
Figure 3: Marine SACs within 50km of the SC-DMAP Study Area

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Legend

- SC-DMAP Study Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Study Area 10km inland buffer

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

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Appendix B
Figure 4: SACs designated for otter *Lutra lutra* within 10km inland of the SC-DMAP Study Area

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Fawnboy Bog/Lough Nacung SAC
West Of Ardara/Maas Road SAC
Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC
Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC
Leannan River SAC
River Finn SAC
Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC
Lough Melvin SAC
Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC
Lough Gill SAC
Newport River SAC
Unshin River SAC
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC
Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC
River Moy SAC
River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC
The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC
Maumturk Mountains SAC
Lough Corrib SAC
Connemara Bog Complex SAC
Lower River Shannon SAC
Slaney River Valley SAC
Mount Brandon SAC
Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC
Castlemaine Harbour SAC
Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC
Glanmore Bog SAC
Bandon River SAC

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Ballymena
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Laois
Wicklow
Carlow
Ennis
Kilkee
Limerick
Kilkenny
Wicklow Mountains
Wexford
Tipperary
Tralee
Kerry
Cork
St. George's Channel
Cardigan Bay
Cambrian Mountains
Caernarfon
Snowdonia National Park
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Milford Haven
Swansea
Bristol Channel
Barnstaple
Celtic Sea
IRELAND

666 m
550 m
365 m
527 m
849 m
1085 m
918 m
982 m

N83
N59
N70
N71
M8
A4
A40

Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS

Legend

SC-DMAP Study Area

Special Area of Conservation

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

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Appendix B
Figure 5: SACs designated for anadromous fish and pearl mussel in Ireland

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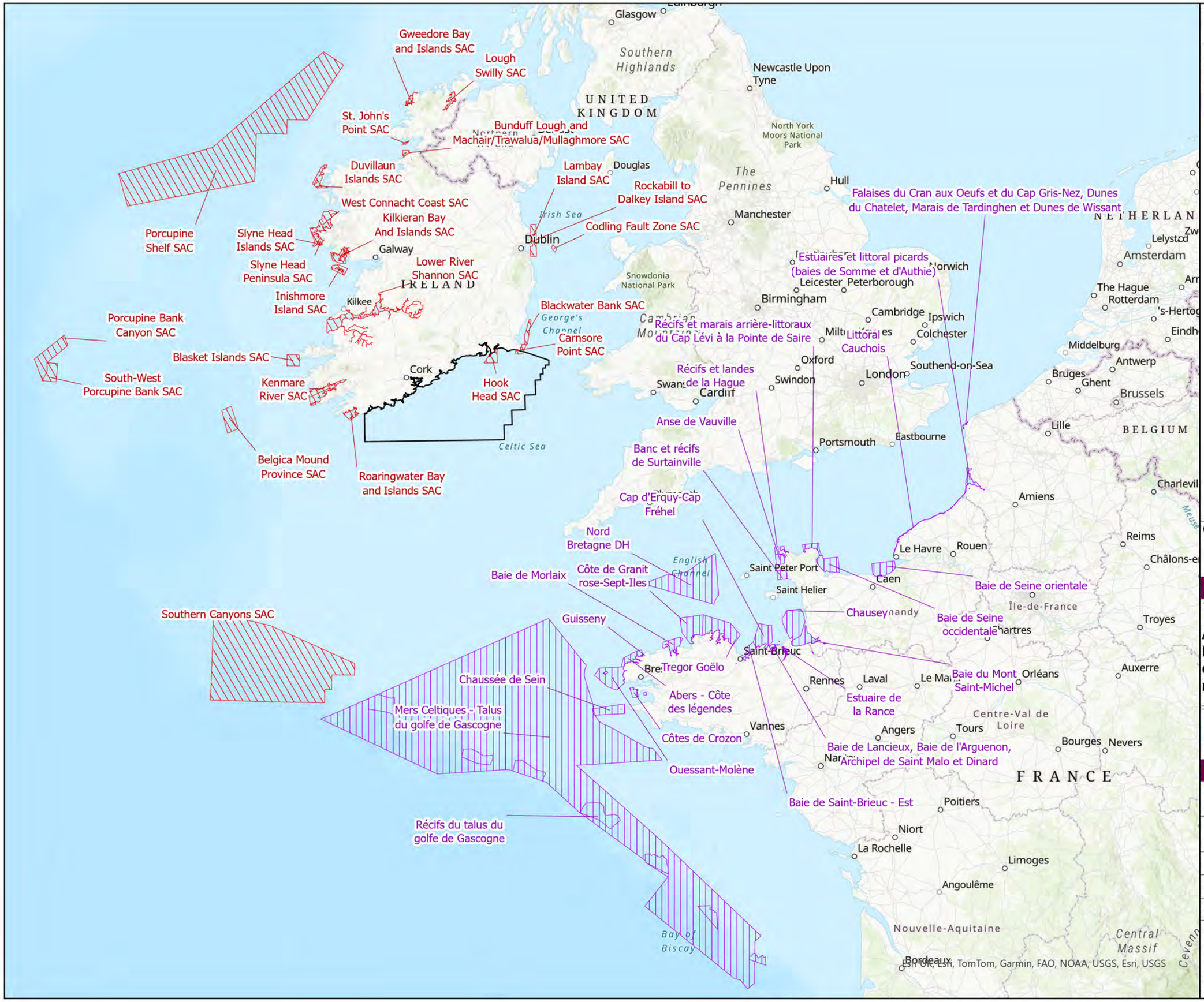

Legend

- SC-DMAP Study Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Area of Conservation France

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

N

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Title

Appendix B
Figure 6: SACs designated for cetaceans within the defined management unit for SC-DMAP

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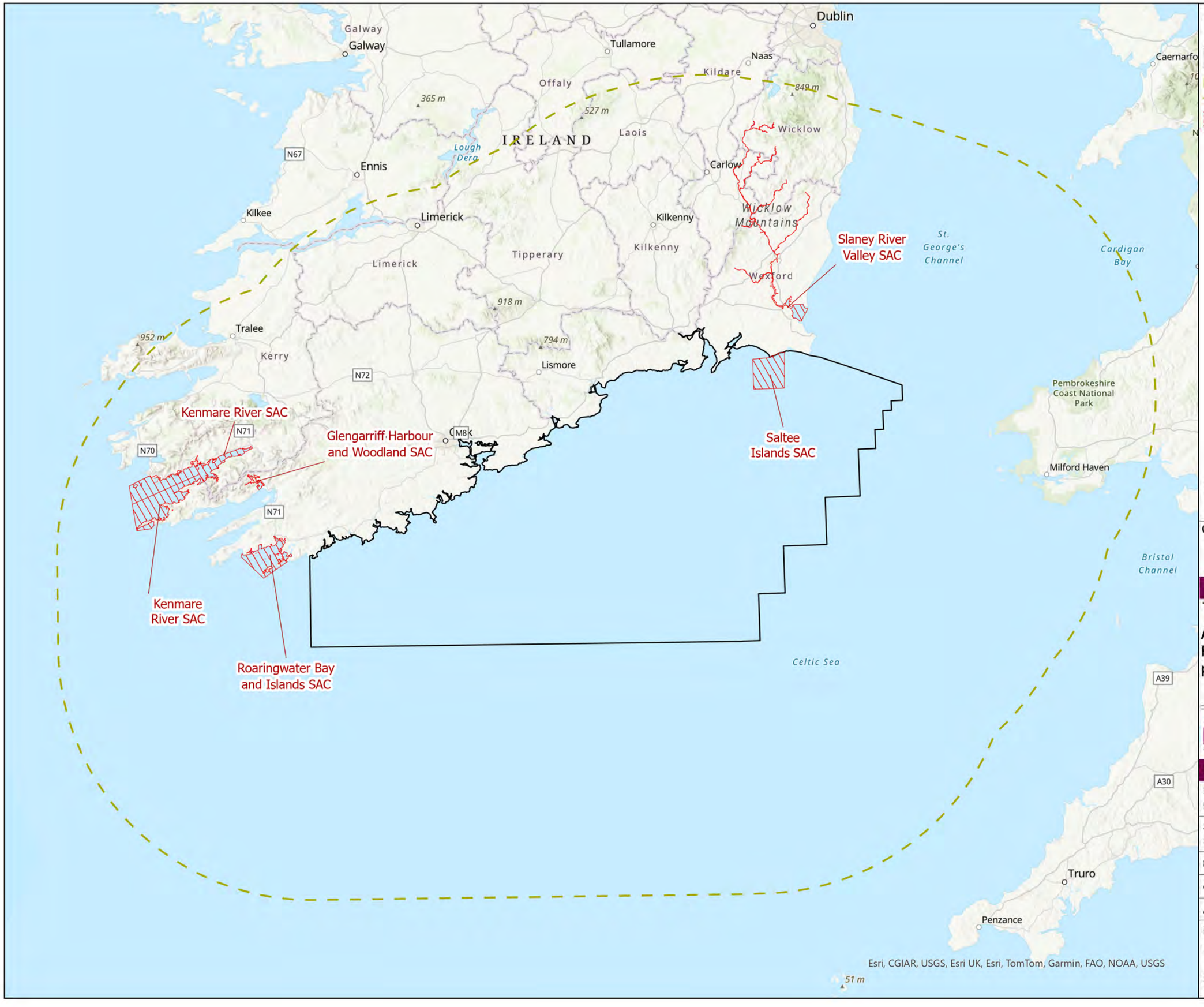

Legend

- SC-DMAP Study Area
- Study Area 100km buffer
- Special Area of Conservation

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

N

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South Coast DMAP

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Appendix B
Figure 7: SACs designated for pinniped in Ireland

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Appendix C
List of SPAs in the Republic of Ireland

Appendix C Table 1: List of SPAs in the Republic of Ireland

Site		Distance (km) to			Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	Distance from Study Area		Irish SPA designated for breeding, wintering or permeant SCI species
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site direction		5km inland	50km marine buffer	
IE004002	Saltee Islands SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004009	Lady's Island Lake SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004020	Ballyteige Burrow SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004021	Old Head of Kinsale SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	0.00	0.00	NE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004030	Cork Harbour SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004032	Dungarvan Harbour SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004033	Bannow Bay SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004124	Sovereign Islands SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004191	Seven Heads SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004192	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	0.00	0.00	N	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004219	Courtmacsherry Bay SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004237	Seas off Wexford SPA	0.00	0.00	S	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
IE004092	Tacumshin Lake SPA	0.02	0.00	N	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	0.05	0.00	N	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004081	Clonakilty Bay SPA	9.83	0.00	W	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004190	Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA	10.97	0.00	W	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004156	Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA	35.77	0.00	W	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IE004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	8.48	8.53	N	No	No	Yes	Yes

Site		Distance (km) to			Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	Distance from Study Area		Irish SPA designated for breeding, wintering or permeant SCI species
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site direction		5km inland	50km marine buffer	
IE004019	The Raven SPA	13.88	13.98	N	No	No	Yes	Yes
IE004143	Cahore Marshes SPA	39.99	39.97	N	No	No	Yes	Yes
IE004155	Beara Peninsula SPA	76.62	42.10	W	No	No	Yes	Yes
IE004094	Blackwater Callows SPA	20.37	18.81	N - NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004233	River Nore SPA	24.90	20.10	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004109	The Gearagh SPA	31.32	29.10	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004162	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA	39.09	36.93	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004095	Kilcolman Bog SPA	46.12	40.56	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004038	Killarney National Park SPA	64.45	48.71	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004108	Eirk Bog SPA	73.89	54.12	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004161	Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA	63.28	57.26	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	96.77	65.42	W	No	No	No	Yes
IE004066	The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA	106.04	69.14	W	No	No	No	Yes
IE004175	Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA	103.93	71.48	W	No	No	No	Yes
IE004165	Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA	69.42	72.02	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004029	Castlemaine Harbour SPA	89.79	73.78	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	78.33	79.05	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	88.89	83.54	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004153	Dingle Peninsula SPA	103.44	85.03	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004188	Tralee Bay Complex SPA	97.05	85.11	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	94.23	87.00	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004003	Puffin Island SPA	118.21	87.80	W	No	No	No	Yes
IE004127	Wicklow Head SPA	89.96	89.95	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004186	The Murrough SPA	91.94	91.95	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004007	Skelligs SPA	124.49	92.17	W	No	No	No	Yes
IE004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	95.50	96.10	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	96.31	99.02	NW	No	No	No	Yes

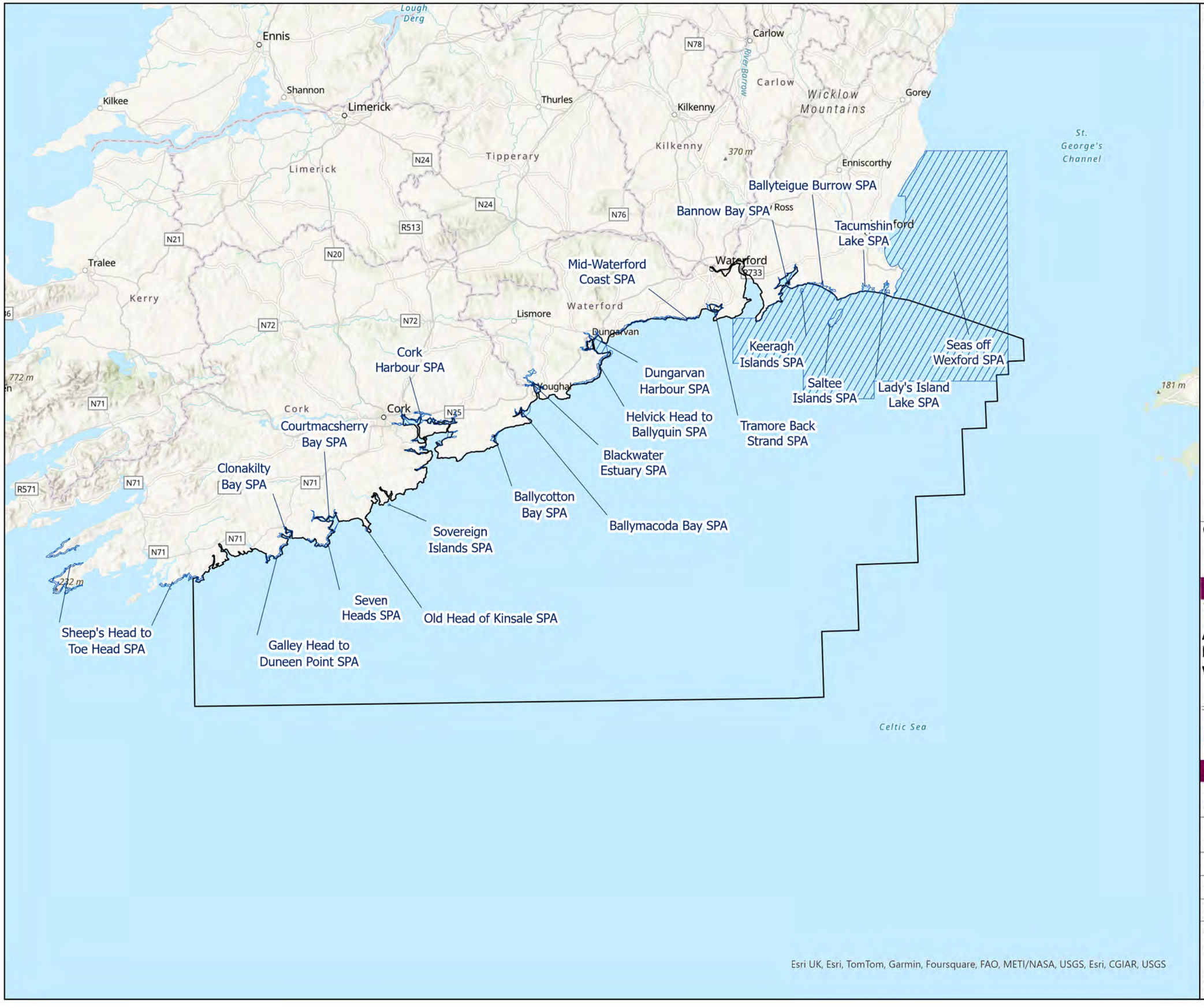
Site		Distance (km) to			Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	Distance from Study Area		Irish SPA designated for breeding, wintering or permeant SCI species
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site direction		5km inland	50km marine buffer	
IE004125	Magharee Islands SPA	112.59	99.36	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004189	Kerry Head SPA	114.57	103.08	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA	106.27	108.90	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004137	Dovegrove Callows SPA	113.66	109.11	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004008	Blasket Islands SPA	133.55	109.64	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004086	River Little Brosna Callows SPA	115.48	111.83	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004103	All Saints Bog SPA	117.22	113.48	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004041	Ballyallia Lough SPA	119.97	114.52	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	114.40	116.24	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004182	Mid-Clare Coast SPA	126.52	120.52	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004119	Loop Head SPA	130.34	120.67	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	120.08	120.85	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	121.27	122.02	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004220	Corofin Wetlands SPA	128.64	123.16	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004114	Illaunonearaun SPA	129.33	123.27	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004056	Lough Cutra SPA	127.79	126.98	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004006	North Bull Island SPA	126.55	127.29	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	130.15	128.19	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004097	River Suck Callows SPA	132.59	128.69	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	132.53	130.16	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004017	Mongan Bog SPA	136.84	130.30	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	130.30	131.06	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004044	Lough Ennell SPA	136.85	131.91	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004107	Coole-Garryland SPA	134.29	132.88	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	132.23	132.97	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	133.83	134.58	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004005	Cliffs of Moher SPA	141.31	135.43	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004134	Lough Rea SPA	134.32	136.91	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	137.20	137.94	N	No	No	No	Yes

Site		Distance (km) to			Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	Distance from Study Area		Irish SPA designated for breeding, wintering or permeant SCI species
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site direction		5km inland	50km marine buffer	
IE004064	Lough Ree SPA	148.17	141.62	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	144.15	142.28	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	142.24	142.96	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004047	Lough Owel SPA	147.83	142.97	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004069	Lambay Island SPA	143.40	144.15	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	145.00	147.65	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004046	Lough Iron SPA	152.74	147.82	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	153.39	148.99	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004122	Skerries Islands SPA	151.40	152.14	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004014	Rockabill SPA	151.76	152.49	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004139	Lough Croan Turlough SPA	157.47	153.04	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004142	Cregganna Marsh SPA	153.08	153.44	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004102	Garriskil Bog SPA	159.41	154.51	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004045	Glen Lough SPA	161.03	156.05	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004152	Inishmore SPA	161.99	156.12	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004140	Four Roads Turlough SPA	160.69	157.05	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	157.87	158.56	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004042	Lough Corrib SPA	164.40	162.19	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	163.75	164.41	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004181	Connemara Bog Complex SPA	170.23	164.67	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	172.67	167.96	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	172.69	168.31	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	176.58	170.68	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004159	Slyne Head to Ardmore Point Islands SPA	184.79	178.94	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	180.03	180.49	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	180.51	181.19	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004049	Lough Oughter Complex SPA	194.28	189.66	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004105	Bellanagare Bog SPA	195.80	192.41	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004062	Lough Mask SPA	197.73	194.91	N	No	No	No	Yes

Site		Distance (km) to			Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	Distance from Study Area		Irish SPA designated for breeding, wintering or permeant SCI species
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site direction		5km inland	50km marine buffer	
IE004078	Carlingford Lough SPA	197.48	198.17	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004048	Lough Gara SPA	207.65	203.13	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004051	Lough Carra SPA	203.18	203.29	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004050	Lough Arrow SPA	218.52	212.05	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004221	Illaunnanoon SPA	218.29	212.49	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004231	Inishbofin, Omey Island and Turbot Island SPA	218.91	213.02	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004170	Cruagh Island SPA	223.36	217.45	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004144	High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA	227.21	221.29	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	226.91	223.96	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004212	Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA	230.68	224.98	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004228	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA	229.09	231.65	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004136	Clare Island SPA	241.60	235.93	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	241.76	236.16	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004098	Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA	240.79	238.81	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	247.67	241.40	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	249.56	243.30	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	252.42	246.23	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004036	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA	246.72	247.92	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	255.45	249.45	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004133	Aughris Head SPA	252.80	249.47	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004177	Bills Rocks SPA	255.91	250.14	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004135	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA	257.83	253.13	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004037	Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA	261.62	257.07	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004235	Doogort Machair SPA	263.09	257.49	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004151	Donegal Bay SPA	263.86	258.09	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004068	Inishmurray SPA	266.96	261.52	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004057	Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA	268.84	263.92	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004145	Durnesh Lough SPA	270.83	265.40	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004099	Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA	270.36	265.40	N	No	No	No	Yes

Site		Distance (km) to			Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	Distance from Study Area		Irish SPA designated for breeding, wintering or permeant SCI species
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site direction		5km inland	50km marine buffer	
IE004052	Carrowmore Lake SPA	269.01	267.52	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004111	Duvillaun Islands SPA	274.08	268.43	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004227	Mullet Peninsula SPA	274.85	269.22	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004004	Inishkea Islands SPA	278.76	273.08	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004115	Inishduff SPA	282.18	276.03	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004150	West Donegal Coast SPA	284.41	278.19	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004084	Inishglora and Inishkeeragh SPA	285.87	280.47	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004074	Illanmaster SPA	279.99	281.53	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004093	Termoncarragh Lake and Annagh Machair SPA	286.59	282.40	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004110	Lough Nillan Bog SPA	289.24	283.73	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004072	Stags of Broad Haven SPA	288.54	288.69	NW	No	No	No	Yes
IE004120	Rathlin O'Birne Island SPA	294.68	289.49	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004090	Sheskinmore Lough SPA	300.48	294.75	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004039	Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA	301.11	296.03	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004075	Lough Swilly SPA	304.01	299.89	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004116	Inishkeel SPA	305.77	300.10	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004121	Roaninish SPA	309.98	304.19	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004060	Lough Fern SPA	314.43	310.19	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004132	Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA	315.88	310.25	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004087	Lough Foyle SPA	313.07	310.27	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004230	West Donegal Islands SPA	328.27	323.00	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004194	Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA	328.18	324.45	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004149	Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA	330.61	325.67	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004082	Greers Isle SPA	333.22	329.13	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004083	Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA	334.99	330.04	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004148	Fanad Head SPA	335.91	332.12	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004034	Trawbreaga Bay SPA	336.20	333.43	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004073	Tory Island SPA	344.76	339.81	N	No	No	No	Yes

Site		Distance (km) to			Within draft SC-DMAP Study Area	Distance from Study Area		Irish SPA designated for breeding, wintering or permeant SCI species
Code	Name	draft SC-DMAP	Study Area	Site direction		5km inland	50km marine buffer	
IE004146	Malin Head SPA	344.66	341.69	N	No	No	No	Yes
IE004100	Inishtrahull SPA	352.63	349.98	N	No	No	No	Yes



Legend

- SC-DMAP Study Area
- Special Protection Area

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

N

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South Coast DMAP

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Appendix C
Figure 1: Distribution of SPAs within SC-DMAP Study Area

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Issue Details

File Identifier:
IE000716-RPS-AP-XX-D-Z-0048

Status:	Rev:	Model File Identifier:
S0	P01.01	

Drawn: PK	**Date:** 12/03/2024
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Approved: RR	**Projection:** ITM

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Legend

- SC-DMAP Study Area
- Special Protection Area
- Study Area 5km inland buffer

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

N

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South Coast DMAP

Title

Appendix C
Figure 2: Inland SPAs within 5km of the SC-DMAP Study Area

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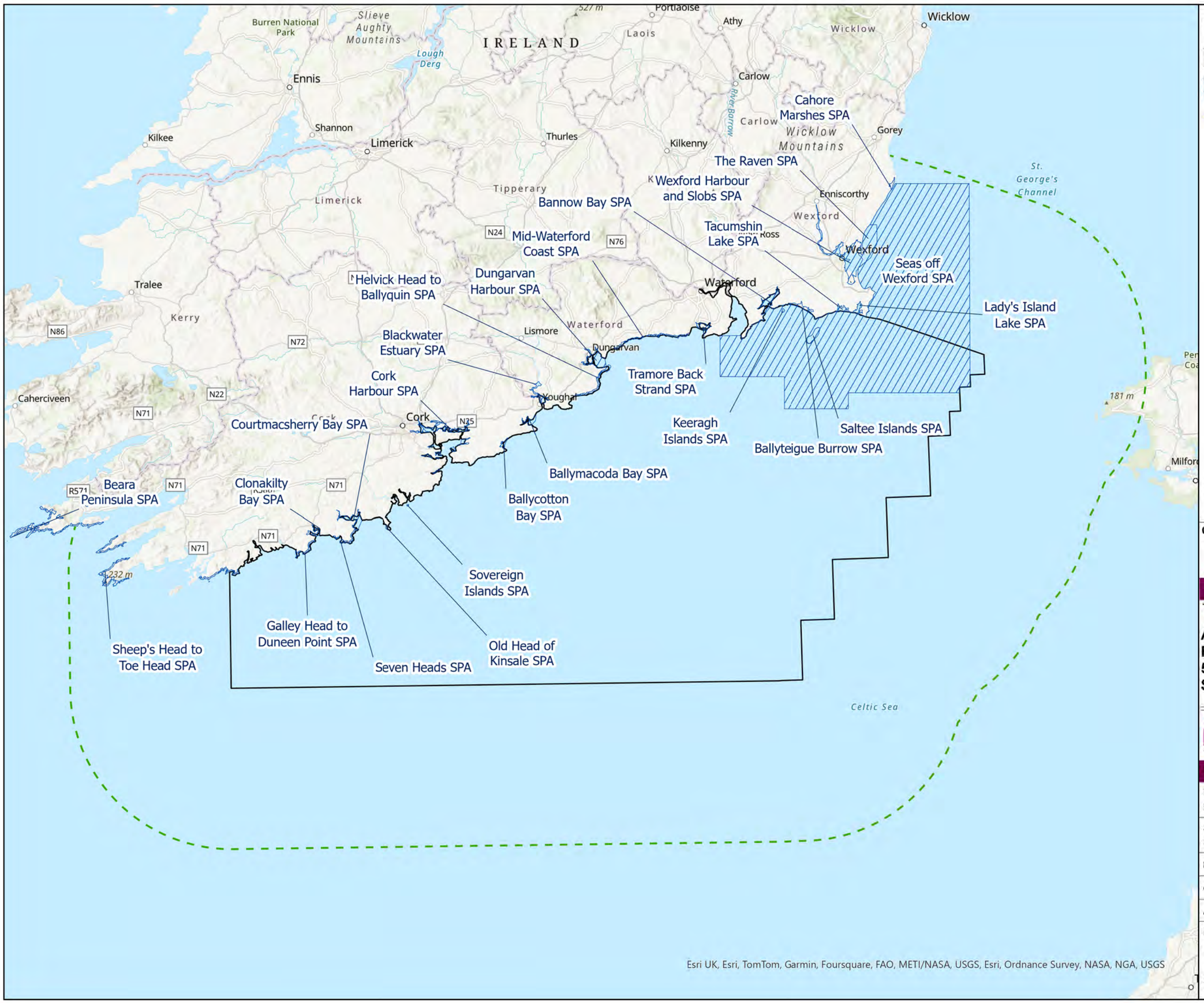

Legend

- SC-DMAP Study Area
- Special Protection Area
- Study Area 50km marine buffer

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Appendix C
Figure 3: Marine SPAs within 50km of the SC-DMAP Study Area

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Legend

- SC-DMAP Study Area
- Special Protection Area

0 75 150 300
Kilometres

N

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Appendix C
Figure 4: Distribution of Irelands SPAs

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Appendix D
Conservation Status of EU Habitats and Species

The following tables are sourced from the NPWS 2019 report entitled *The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview*. This report is available online at https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2019 (accessed November 2023).

Summary Conservation Status of QI Habitats and Species in the Republic of Ireland

Appendix D Figure 1: Summary Conservation Status of QI Habitats and Species in the Republic of Ireland

Code	Common name	2007 Overall Status	2013 Overall Status and operator	2019 Overall Status and trend	2019 Range	2019 Area	2019 Structure & Functions	2019 Future Prospects
1110	Sandbanks	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Favourable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Favourable
1130	Estuaries	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Improving	Declining	Stable	Stable	Declining	Unfavourable-Inadequate
1140	Tidal mudflats and sandflats	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Improving	Declining	Stable	Stable	Declining	Unfavourable-Inadequate
1150	Lagoons*	Unfavourable-Bad	Stable	Declining	Stable	Stable	Declining	Unfavourable-Bad
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Improving	Declining	Stable	Stable	Declining	Unfavourable-Bad
1170	Reefs	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Declining	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases			Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Favourable
1210	Drift lines	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Declining	Declining	Stable	Declining	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
1220	Vegetated shingle	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
1310	*Salicornia* mud	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Declining	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Favourable
1320	Spartinion	Unfavourable-Inadequate						
1330	Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Stable	Declining	Stable	Declining	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
1410	Mediterranean salt meadows	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Stable	Declining	Stable	Declining	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
1420	Halophilous scrub	Unfavourable-Bad	Declining	Declining	Declining	Declining	Stable	Unfavourable-Bad
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
2120	Marram dunes (white dunes)	Unfavourable-Bad	Stable	Stable	Stable	Declining	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
2130	Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*	Unfavourable-Bad	Stable	Declining	Stable	Stable	Declining	Unfavourable-Bad
2140	Empetrum dunes*	Unfavourable-Bad	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Favourable
2150	Dune heath*	Unfavourable-Bad	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
2170	Dunes with creeping willow	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
2190	Dune slacks	Unfavourable-Bad	Declining	Declining	Declining	Declining	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
21A0	Machair*	Unfavourable-Bad	Stable	Stable	Stable	Declining	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
3110	Oligotrophic isoetid lake habitat	Unfavourable-Bad	Declining	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unfavourable-Bad
3130	Mixed Najas flexilis lake habitat	Unfavourable-Bad	Stable	Declining	Stable	Stable	Declining	Unfavourable-Inadequate
3140	Hard water lakes	Unfavourable-Bad	Declining	Declining	Stable	Stable	Declining	Unfavourable-Bad
3150	Rich pondweed lake habitat	Unfavourable-Bad	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
3160	Acid oligotrophic lakes	Unfavourable-Bad	Declining	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unknown	Unfavourable-Inadequate
3180	Turloughs*	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Unfavourable-Inadequate
3260	Vegetation of flowing waters	Unfavourable-Bad	Declining	Declining	Stable	Stable	Declining	Unfavourable-Inadequate
3270	Chenopodion rubri	Favourable	Favourable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Favourable

STATUS: Favourable Unfavourable-Inadequate Unfavourable-Bad Unknown Vagrant

TREND: ▲ Improving = Stable ▼ Declining ✕ Unknown

Code	Common name	2007 Overall Status	2013 Overall Status and operator	2019 Overall Status and trend	2019 Range	2019 Area	2019 Structure & Functions	2019 Future Prospects
4010	Wet heaths	Bad	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Bad =	Bad
4030	Dry heaths	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Bad =	Bad =	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Bad =	Bad
4060	Alpine and subalpine heath	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Bad ▲	Bad ▲	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Bad ▲	Bad
5130	Juniper scrub	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable
6130	Calaminarian grasslands	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate
6210	Orchid-rich calcareous grassland*	Bad	Bad =	Bad ▼	Favourable =	Bad ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Bad
6230	Species-rich *Nardus* grassland*	Bad	Bad ▼	Bad =	Favourable =	Bad =	Bad =	Bad
6410	*Molinia* meadows	Bad	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Bad ▼	Bad =	Bad
6430	Hydrophilous tall-herb swamp	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Bad =	Bad ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Bad =	Bad
6510	Hay meadows	Bad	Bad =	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Bad
7110	Raised bog (active)*	Bad	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Bad =	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Bad
7120	Degraded raised bogs	Bad	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Bad =	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Bad
7130	Blanket bog (active)*	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Bad ▼	Bad
7140	Transition mires	Bad	Bad ×	Bad =	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Bad ×	Bad
7150	Rhynchosporion depressions	Favourable	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Bad ▼	Favourable =	Bad ▼	Bad ▼	Bad
7210	*Cladium* fens*	Bad	Bad ×	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ×	Unfavourable-Inadequate
7220	Petrifying springs*	Bad	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Favourable =	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate
7230	Alkaline fens	Bad	Bad ×	Bad ▼	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Bad ×	Bad
8110	Siliceous scree	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▲	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate
8120	Eutric scree	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate
8240	Limestone pavement*	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Unfavourable-Inadequate =	Favourable =	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▲	Unfavourable-Inadequate
8310	Caves	Favourable	Favourable	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable
8330	Sea caves	Favourable	Favourable	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable
91A0	Old oak woodland	Bad	Bad ▲	Bad ▼	Favourable =	Bad ▼	Bad =	Bad
91D0	Bog woodland*	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Favourable	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable =	Favourable
91E0	Alluvial woodland*	Bad	Bad ▲	Bad ▼	Favourable =	Bad ▼	Unfavourable-Inadequate ▼	Bad
91J0	Yew woodland*	Bad	Bad ▲	Bad =	Bad =	Bad =	Bad =	Bad

STATUS: Favourable Unfavourable-Inadequate Unfavourable-Bad Unknown Vagrant

TREND: ▲ Improving = Stable ▼ Declining × Unknown

Code	Species name	Annex	2007 Overall Status	2013 Overall Status and operator	2019 Overall Status and trend	2019 Range	2019 Population	2019 Habitat for the species	2019 Future Prospects
6985	Killarney fern (*Vandenboschia speciosa*)	II, IV	●	●	=	=	=	=	●
1528	Marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*)	II, IV	●	●	=	=	=	=	●
1833	Slender naiad (*Najas flexilis*)	II, IV	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
6216	Slender green feather moss (*Hamatocaulis vernicosus*)	II	●	●	=	=	=	=	●
1395	Petalwort (*Petalophyllum ralfsii*)	II	●	●	=	=	=	=	●
1376	Maërl (*Lithothamnium coralloides*)	V	●	▲	▼	=	=	▼	●
1377	Maërl (*Phymatholithon calcareum*)	V	●	▲	▼	=	=	▼	●
1400	White cushion moss (*Leucobryum glaucum*)	V	●	●	=	=	=	=	●
1409	Sphagnum genus (*Sphagnum spp.*)	V	●	=	=				
1413	Lycopodium group (*Lycopodium spp.*)	V	●	=	=				
1378	Cladonia subgenus cladina (*Cladonia (Cladina) subsp.*)	V	●	=	=				
1013	Geyer's whorl snail (*Vertigo geyeri*)	II	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
1014	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (*Vertigo angustior*)	II	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
1016	Desmoulin's whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*)	II	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
1024	Kerry slug (*Geomalacus maculosus*)	II, IV	●	●	▲	▲	▲	=	●
1029	Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)	II, V	●	▼	▼	=	▼	▼	●
1990	Nore pearl mussel (*Margaritifera durrovensis*)	II, V	●	▼					
1092	White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)	II, V	●	=	▼	▼	▼	=	●
1065	Marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*)	II	●	▼	▲	▲	▲	=	●
1095	Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)	II	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
1096	Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)	II	●	●	=	=	=	=	●
1099	River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)	II, V	●	●	○	×	×	=	○
5046	Killarney shad (*Alosa killarnensis*)	II, V	●	●	=	=	=	=	●
1103	Twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*)	II, V	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
5076	Pollan (*Coregonus pollan*)	V	●	×	=	=	=	=	●
1106	Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)	II, V	●	=	=	=	▼	=	●
6284	Natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*)	IV	●	▲	=	=	×	▲	●
1213	Common frog (*Rana temporaria*)	V	●	●	=	=	=	=	●
1223	Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)	IV	●	○	○	○	×	○	○
1303	Lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*)	II, IV	●	●	▼	▼	▲	▼	●
1309	Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)	IV	●	●	▲	=	▲	=	●
5009	Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)	IV	●	●	▲	=	▲	=	●
1317	Nathusius' pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*)	IV	●	○	○	×	▲	=	○
1322	Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*)	IV	●	●	=	=	=	=	●

STATUS: ● Favourable ● Unfavourable-Inadequate ● Unfavourable-Bad ○ Unknown ● Vagrant

TREND: ▲ Improving = Stable ▼ Declining × Unknown

Code	Species name	Annex	2007 Overall Status	2013 Overall Status and operator	2019 Overall Status and trend	2019 Range	2019 Population	2019 Habitat for the species	2019 Future Prospects
1314	Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)	IV							
1330	Whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*)	IV							
1326	Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)	IV							
1331	Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)	IV							
1334	Mountain hare (*Lepus timidus*)	V							
1355	Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	II, IV							
1357	Pine marten (*Martes martes*)	V							
1364	Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)	II, V							
1365	Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*)	II, V							
1345	Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)	IV							
1349	Common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)	II, IV							
1350	Common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)	IV							
1351	Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)	II, IV							
2027	Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*)	IV							
2029	Long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*)	IV							
2030	Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)	IV							
2031	White-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*)	IV							
2032	White-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*)	IV							
2034	Striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*)	IV							
2035	Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*)	IV							
2038	Sowerby's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon bidens*)	IV							
2618	Minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)	IV							
2621	Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)	IV							
5020	Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*)	IV							
2624	Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)	IV							
5033	Northern bottlenose whale (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*)	IV							
2619	Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*)	IV							
1348	Northern right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)	IV							
2028	False killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*)	IV							
2037	True's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon mirus*)	IV							
2622	Pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*)	IV							
5029	Beluga/White whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*)	IV							
5034	Gervais' beaked whale (*Mesoplodon europaeus*)	IV							
1102	Allis shad (*Alosa alosa*)	II, V							
1320	Brandt's bat (*Myotis brandtii*)	IV							

STATUS: Favourable Unfavourable-Inadequate Unfavourable-Bad Unknown Vagrant

TREND: Improving Stable Declining Unknown

Appendix D Table 1: Summary Status Description for QI Habitats in the ROI

QI Habitat Code	QI Habitat Name	Summary Status Description (based on 2019 NPWS Article 17 Report)
1110	Sandbanks	Improvements over time due to declining pressures. Stable status in 2019, as no significant pressures identified. Overall favourable future prospect for this habitat.
1130	Estuaries	Overall status is deteriorating. Trend changes seen from improving in 2013 to declining in 2019 is a result of more accurate data. This decline is considered to have been ongoing since the beginning of the last assessment.
1140	Tidal mudflats and sandflats	Overall status is deteriorating. Changes from improving to deteriorating are due to a genuine decline in the quality of this habitat since 2013. Causes of this have been identified as; pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster (Magallana gigas).
1150*	Lagoons	The Overall Status for Lagoons is assessed as Bad, unchanged since the 2013 assessment. High ranking pressures on this habitat are identified as; eutrophication, modification of hydrological flow, drainage, erosion and silting up, accumulation of seaweed, and sedimentation from peat related to turf cutting and/or forestry. The change from stable to declining is a result of a genuine decline since 2013.
1160	Large Shallow inlets and bays	Previous trends of inadequate and improving are now assessed as bad, owing to more detailed information. Bad status as a result of pressures including; nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species.
1170	Reefs	Inadequate yet stable status. Change in status from bad is mainly attributed to better knowledge gained from recent surveys, while genuine improvements have occurred by the implementation of an EU Regulation restricting the use of bottom trawls therefore reducing pressures to the seafloor.
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	Not assessed in reports prior to 2019. Favourable with a stable trend based on the physical and geological nature of this habitat in addition to no identified significant pressures on their long-term viability.
1210	Drift lines	A deteriorating trend due to anthropogenic area losses. Inadequate status caused by pressures associated with activities such as recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics, and the fact that the current area is still below the favourable reference area.
1220	Vegetated shingle/Perennial vegetation of stony banks	This assessment is unchanged since 2013. The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate, mainly due to pressures associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal. The trend is stable.
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs	Overall Status remains Inadequate with a stable trend. Subject to various pressures including; trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. The Habitats Directive has prevented significant losses, however close monitoring is required for this vulnerable habitat.
1310	*Salicornia* mud	The Overall Status is Favourable with a stable trend, an improvement since 2013. This change is due partly to a change in the threshold for favourable structure and functions, and partly because of a lack of evidence for the recent spread of the invasive non-native species, common cordgrass (Spartina anglica).
1320	Spartina-dominated swards	No information.
1330	Atlantic salt meadow	Inadequate status. Unchanged since 2013. Deterioration represents a genuine decline due to losses in area, while Inadequate status is due to pressures from agriculture, including ecologically unsuitable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass (Spartina anglica).
1410	Mediterranean salt meadow	Inadequate status. Unchanged since 2013. Deterioration represents a genuine decline due to losses in area, while Inadequate status is due to pressures associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, undergrazing and land reclamation.
1420	Halophilous scrubs	Continuing decline since 2013, assessed as Bad with a deteriorating trend. This trend is due to recent area losses, associated with algal mats formed as a

QI Habitat Code	QI Habitat Name	Summary Status Description (based on 2019 NPWS Article 17 Report)
		consequence of water pollution, which resulted in a contraction of the range of the habitat.
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	Unchanged since 2013, Inadequate and stable trend associated with pressures from recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.
2120	Marram dunes ('white dunes')	Unchanged since 2013, Inadequate and stable trend mainly associated with pressures from recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with local sediment dynamics.
2130*	Fixed dunes (grey dunes)	Overall Bad status. Deteriorating trend due to poor results for structure and functions, but this is largely attributed to use of a different methodology and decline is considered to have been on-going since before the last assessment. Pressures are associated with recreation and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices.
2140*	Empetrum dunes	Improving trend attributed to more accurate monitoring data rather than actual change, and the habitat is considered to have been in Favourable condition since before the last assessment. Overall status is therefore favourable. Pressures include; grassland abandonment, recreational activities, and bracken encroachment; however, none were considered to impact the long-term viability of the habitat.
2150*	Dune heath	The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate with a stable trend due to pressures associated with land abandonment, recreational activities, and bracken encroachment. This assessment is unchanged since 2013.
2170	Dunes with creeping willow	Inadequate status unchanged from 2013 due to pressures associated with ecologically unsuitable grazing, invasive non-native species and agricultural intensification.
2190	Dune slacks	Unchanged condition since last assessment. Inadequate and deteriorating agricultural fertilisers, sports and leisure activities, and drainage. Succession to scrub is also problematic for the status of this habitat.
21AO*	Machair	The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate, which differs from the 2013 Bad assessment. The overall trend is stable. A different method was used to determine the proportion of habitat in good condition and the status is considered to have been Inadequate since before the last assessment.
3110	Oligotrophic isoetid lake habitat	The Overall Status is assessed as Bad with a stable trend. The change in trend from deteriorating to stable is because of the use of a different method. The future of this habitat requires action to address peatland damage at a catchment scale, as well as to reduce nutrient and other pollution.
3130	Mixed *Najas flexilis* lake habitat	No change since the 2013 assessment except a move from stable to a deteriorating trend. This was based on improved knowledge through dedicated survey during the reporting cycle while also being subject to significant pressures from drainage, agriculture, peat extraction, forestry and wastewaters.
3140	Hard water lakes	Significant pressures have given this habitat a Bad and deteriorating status. These include nutrient and organic pollution being agriculture and municipal and industrial wastewaters while movement of pollutants, especially phosphorus, through groundwater is a significant concern.
3150	Rich pondweed lake habitat	Unchanging status since last assessment due to anthropogenic influences. Associated with catchments dominated by mineral soil and, hence, some of the most intensive agricultural lands. Eutrophication is primary issue. Inadequate but stable trend.
3160	Acid oligotrophic lakes	In Inadequate condition, this habitat trend has changed from deteriorating to stable due to use of a different assessment method and the trend is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment.
3180*	Turloughs	Because of on-going pressures related to drainage, groundwater pollution and ecologically unsuitable grazing, the Overall Status has been assessed as Inadequate and stable, unchanged since 2013. The pressures mentioned gravely impact turlough ecology due to its hydrological dynamics.
3260	Vegetation of flowing waters	The inadequate and deteriorating trend of this habitat is of significant concern and is continually highlighted by the EPA. Agriculture, municipal, industrial discharges

QI Habitat Code	QI Habitat Name	Summary Status Description (based on 2019 NPWS Article 17 Report)
		and damage through hydrological and morphological change are the leading issues causing sedimentation and high nutrient conditions.
3270	Chenopodion rubric	This habitat is upkeeping its favourable status since 2013 with intensive grazing causing poaching being the only significant pressure recorded.
4010	Wet heaths	Bad and deteriorating with a change in trend from stable in 2013 associated with continued area losses due to new forestry, paths, tracks and land clearance while Overgrazing, burning, wind farm development and erosion are ongoing issues. In addition to this, N deposition from agriculture that generate air pollution and climate change have been recognised as causing negative impacts and causing poor future prospects for this habitat.
4030	Dry heaths	Bad and stable with no change since 2013. Multiple significant pressures are associated with dry heath habitats. Overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture are particular issues here causing habitat degradation and losses through erosion. Afforestation and win farms also contribute to their bad status.
4060	Alpine and subalpine heath	Ongoing pressures and threats have given this habitat a Bad status. These include climate change (temp. increase & precip. decrease), upland sheep grazing, hill walking, and agricultural activities causing both current and future threats. An improving trend here assumes that the reduced grazing brought about by the Commonage Framework Plans continues to have a positive effect on this habitat.
5130	Juniper scrub	The Overall Status is assessed as Favourable and the trend is stable. The apparent improvement in status since the 2013 report is due to use of a different assessment method rather than a genuine change, and the habitat is considered to have been Favourable since before the last assessment.
6130	Calaminarian grasslands	The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate with a declining trend. The change in trend since 2013 is due to improved knowledge, and decline is considered to have been on-going since before the last assessment.
6210*	Orchid-rich calcareous grassland	The Bad deteriorating status here represents a genuine decline since the 2013 report in which the trend was assessed as stable. On-going habitat losses are associated with this such as agricultural intensification causing loss of species-rich communities, or abandonment of farmland resulting in succession to scrub despite conservation-focused farming schemes aiming to improve such habitats.
6230*	Species-rich *Nardus* grassland	The Overall Status is assessed as Bad due to on-going pressures such as bracken encroachment and succession. The trend is stable, and may represent a genuine improvement since the 2013 report however there was limited monitoring undertaken.
6410	*Molina* meadows	Bad and deteriorating trend, unchanged since 2013. On-going losses of habitat due to agricultural intensification (e.g. land drainage, fertiliser application), undergrazing and forestry. Significant historical losses of this habitat have also occurred since the EU Habitats Directive came into force contributing to this poor status.
6430	Hydrophilous tall-her swamp	The Overall Status is assessed as Bad with a deteriorating trend. This change in trend since the 2013 report represents a genuine decline due to range contraction and a decline in structure and functions.
6510	Hay meadow	This change in trend since the 2013 report (in which it was judged to be stable) is attributed to improved knowledge/more accurate data, and decline is considered to have been on-going since before the last assessment.
7110*	Raised bog (active)	Overall Status of the habitat is Bad and deteriorating, unchanged since the last assessment. The main pressures on active raised bog are peat extraction, drainage, afforestation and burning. Climate change is also considered a threat in the future
7120	Degraded raised bog	Overall Status is assessed as Bad and deteriorating, unchanged since the last assessment. The main pressures on Degraded raised bog come from peat extraction, drainage, afforestation, burning and climate change.
7130*	Blanket bog (active)	Overall Status is assessed as Bad and deteriorating, unchanged since the 2013 report. Main pressures include overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are other issues of concern for blanket bog status.

QI Habitat Code	QI Habitat Name	Summary Status Description (based on 2019 NPWS Article 17 Report)
7140	Transition mires	The Overall Status is assessed as Bad, as in the last two reporting periods. The trend is assessed as stable. The main pressures facing transition mires in Ireland are afforestation, water pollution, drainage and hydrological changes. Grazing/agricultural management is also prominent as an issue.
7150	Rhynchosporion depressions	The Overall Status is assessed as bad with a deteriorating trend. The change in status since 2013 is primarily due to use of a different method in the definition and interpretation of the habitat. The main pressures on the habitat are associated with impacts on the supporting bog habitats, especially overgrazing, burning, peat extraction, drainage and conversion to forestry.
7210*	*Cladium* fens	The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate but stable. Improved knowledge/more data resulted in the status change since 2013 and the trend is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment.
7220*	Petrifying springs	The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate, which is unchanged since the last reporting period. The trend is assessed as deteriorating (reported as stable in 2013), which is due to improved knowledge, and decline is considered to have been ongoing since before the last assessment.
7230	Alkaline fens	The main pressures facing the habitat in Ireland are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution. The Overall Status is assessed as Bad with a deteriorating trend due to losses of area and habitat quality, as well as the pressures and threats faced by the habitat.
8110	Silceous scree	The Overall Status is Inadequate, as in the 2013 assessment, but the trend has changed. Structure and functions were assessed as improving in the previous reporting period due to destocking associated with the Commonage Framework Plans; however, as overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment
8120	Eutric scree	The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate with a stable trend due to pressures associated with overgrazing, unchanged since the 2013 assessment.
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes	The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate with a stable trend due to pressures associated with overgrazing and the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (Epilobium brunnescens). This is unchanged since the previous assessment in 2013.
8220	Siliceous rocky scree	The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate with a stable trend due to pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (Epilobium brunnescens). There have been no significant changes since 2013.
8240*	Limestone pavement	The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate due to continuing area losses associated with conversion to agricultural land and housing construction, as well as scrub encroachment caused by undergrazing. The trend is stable as some of these impacts are being offset to some degree by conservation measures undertaken in the Burren and Aran Islands. This is unchanged since the 2013 assessment.
8310	Caves	Although some threats have been identified, some of which might have appreciable localised effects, none is considered likely to have a significant impact on this habitat in Ireland. Overall the future prospects for this habitat are considered to be good. Although the overall conservation assessment for the lesser horseshoe bat in Ireland is now Inadequate due to a small contraction in range, these concerns do not relate to areas with bats in caves, and the Overall Status of caves is Favourable and stable, as it has been over the last two reporting periods. Many vulnerable bat caves are already protected from disturbance through grilling. Regular monitoring is underway and if further vulnerable cave sites are identified these will also be grilled.
8330	Sea caves	Sea caves appear to be extensive around the coast of Ireland, although their distribution along the south-east coast appears to be limited due to geological factors. The occurrence of sandstone/limestone is highly correlated with the formation of sea caves, accounting for nearly 85% of documented occurrences around Ireland. The Overall Status is assessed as Favourable as there are no

QI Habitat Code	QI Habitat Name	Summary Status Description (based on 2019 NPWS Article 17 Report)
		pressures impacting on this habitat. This is the same assessment as in the last two reporting periods.
91A0	Old oak woodland	Historical habitat loss has occurred and still continues, although at a very low level. However, the greatest on-going pressures on these woods come from invasive non-native species such as Rhododendron ponticum, cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus) and beech (Fagus sylvatica) as well as overgrazing by deer. These impacts severely reduce tree regeneration, which is essential for the long-term viability of woodlands. Measures such as the Native Woodland Scheme are expected to have a positive long-term effect but are as yet insufficient to outweigh the pressures, as development of Annex-quality woodland takes decades. These pressures, in conjunction with the continued fragmentation of remaining stands, lead to an Overall Status of Bad with a deteriorating trend. The change in trend from improving in 2013 is due to the availability of more accurate data, particularly in relation to recent habitat loss, and decline is considered to have been on-going since before the last assessment.
91D0*	Bog woodland	A number of low-level pressures affect bog woodlands, including drainage, invasive species and burning, but none are considered significant enough at a national level to adversely affect the long-term viability of the habitat. The Overall Status is therefore Favourable with a stable trend, unchanged since the previous assessment.
91E0*	Alluvial woodland	A number of pressures affect this habitat in Ireland, the most serious being invasive species, particularly sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), beech (Fagus sylvatica), Indian balsam (Impatiens glandulifera) and currant species (Ribes nigrum and R. rubrum). Some native species such as brambles (Rubus fruticosus agg.) and common nettle can also become over-vigorous. Small area losses due to clearfelling have also occurred. As a result, the Overall Status is bad, and the trend is declining. This poorer trend since the previous assessment is mainly due to the availability of more accurate data, and the decline is considered to have been ongoing since before the last assessment.
91J0*	Yew woodland	Pressures are mainly linked to the presence of alien species such as sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), beech (Fagus sylvatica), cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus) and traveller's-joy (Clematis Vialba), with overgrazing by deer also posing a serious problem. The Overall Status of Yew woodland is therefore Bad. The change in trend from improving to stable since the previous assessment is due to improved knowledge and more accurate data, and the trend is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment.

Appendix D Table 2: Summary Status Description for QI Species in ROI

QI Species Code	QI Species Name	Summary Status Description (based on 2019 NPWS Article 17 Report)
6985	Killarney fern *Vandenboschia speciosa*	The pressures identified are generally local issues and none were considered to be impacting on the long-term viability of the species or its habitat. The problem of invasive non-native species, identified at a number of sites, is difficult to manage as they often provide essential cover to Killarney fern colonies. The Overall Status of the species continues to be Favourable, as it has been over the last two assessments.
1528	Marsh saxifrage *Saxifraga hirculus*	There is no evidence of any major pressures currently impacting this species nationally, and therefore the Overall Status is assessed as Favourable.
1833	Slender naiad *Najas flexilis*	The species is threatened by enrichment (eutrophication), acidification and peatland damage. The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate and the trend as deteriorating, because of population extinctions, population decreases and decreasing habitat quality in the current reporting period. The trend differs from the previous assessment because of the availability of improved data to inform the assessments.
6216	Slender green feathermoss	Although its population has almost certainly declined in historic times, due to loss of intact peatlands, recent surveys indicate that there continues to be sufficient good quality habitat to support the long-term survival of the species.

QI Species Code	QI Species Name	Summary Status Description (based on 2019 NPWS Article 17 Report)
	Hamatocaulis vernicosus	There are also no significant pressures currently impacting the species. Therefore, the Overall Status is assessed as Favourable, as it has been for the last two assessments.
1395	Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*	Petalwort has an Atlantic-Mediterranean distribution and in Ireland is most common on the west coast. Some of the largest populations in the world are thought to occur in Ireland. The area and quality of the occupied habitat for the species is deemed to be sufficient for the species' long-term survival. There are also no negative pressures currently impacting seriously on the habitat at a national level. Therefore, the Overall Status is assessed as Favourable, the same result as the last two reporting periods.
1376/1377	Maërl *Lithothamnion corallioides/ Phymatolithon calcareum*	The Overall Status of maërl is Bad and declining, due to deterioration in the quality of the maërl beds caused by the deposition of pseudofaeces and/or extensive algal cover on the beds, the presence of negative indicator species such as the opportunistic ascidian Ascidiella aspersa, and the presence of the invasive alien Sargassum muticum.
1400	White Cushion Moss *Leucobryum glaucum*	Although some of the habitats in which the species occurs are impacted by pressures, there is enough habitat of sufficient quality to support the species and there is no evidence that pressures are operating to compromise the status of this species. Therefore, this species has been assessed as Favourable, as in the previous assessment, with a stable trend.
1409	Sphagnum genus *Sphagnum spp.*	Collection of Sphagnum spp. is unlikely to pose a conservation problem. However, although this genus occurs in many widespread habitats, the condition of these habitats is considered to be inadequate due to pressures such as peat extraction, drainage and eutrophication and as a result the taxon's future prospects are rated as Inadequate. The Overall Status for the group is thus Inadequate.
1413	Lycopodium group *Lycopodium spp.*	The Overall Status of the Lycopodium sub-group is assessed as Unfavourable/Inadequate. This is based on unfavourable assessments for the Habitat for the species and Future prospects parameters for Huperzia selago and Lycopodium clavatum. Lycopodium clavatum also received an unfavourable assessment for Population. The overall trend in conservation status was assessed as stable.
1378	Cladonia subgenus cladina *Cladonia (Cladina) subsp.*	The Overall Status of this taxon is Inadequate due to pressures on the habitats in which it occurs. This is unchanged since the previous reporting period.
1013	Geyer's whorl snail *Vertigo geyeri*	The Overall Status of V. geyeri is assessed as Bad and deteriorating. Grazing levels are considered critical at many sites, the species requiring areas of short vegetation within larger areas of wetland habitat, and given the small size of most sites, damage can happen very quickly. The species is considered very sensitive to changes in hydrology and this has been implicated in causing some of the losses from sites during the current and earlier reporting periods.
1014	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior*	The Overall Status of V. angustior is Inadequate and deteriorating. Grazing is critical for the maintenance of the habitat of V. angustior, especially on the extensive sand dune populations. These habitats are easily modified by inappropriate grazing, changes in stocking type and the impact of wild herbivores, especially rabbits. Sand dune systems have been impacted by leisure activities – caravan sites and golf courses, mainly – and expansion of these activities has exerted significant pressure on some large sites.
1016	Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*	The Overall Status of V. moulinsiana is assessed as Inadequate and deteriorating. The main pressures are associated with natural succession resulting in species composition change and drying out of the habitat. The sites are mainly unmanaged because of their natural wetness, so grazing and mowing are less significant on a national scale and equally should be easily rectified in the short and medium term.
1024	Kerry slug *Geomalacus maculosus*	Studies have shown that the Kerry slug can be abundant on conifer trees. The species will also recolonise boulder habitat when the wood is clear-felled. The

QI Species Code	QI Species Name	Summary Status Description (based on 2019 NPWS Article 17 Report)
		Overall Status is Favourable and improving, driven in part by the large populations in conifer plantations
1029 / 1990	Freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* Nore pearl mussel *Margaritifera durrovensis*	The Overall Status of M. margaritifera is Bad and deteriorating, unchanged since the 2013 assessment. The species is critically endangered in Ireland and across Europe, mainly because of habitat deterioration: a combination of hydrological and morphological changes, sedimentation and enrichment.
1092	White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*	The Overall Status of the species is Bad with a deteriorating trend. This represents a genuine decline since the last reporting period and is mainly due to bad Future prospects for the species due to the presence of the Crayfish Plague organism across six catchments.
1065	Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*	The Overall Status of the species is Inadequate but improving. There has been genuine spread into areas where there have not been previous records. Marsh Fritillary sites are often on marginal land in upland areas and the edges of wetlands and peatlands which are subject to pressures from agricultural conversion and afforestation.
1095	Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	The Overall Status of this species is assessed as Bad with a stable trend, unchanged since the last 2013 assessment. Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs) are considered the major impediment to good conservation status for sea lamprey as these limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat.
1096	Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*	Lamprey surveys in Ireland have necessarily focused on ammocoete abundances and to a lesser extent upon observations of adult spawning events. Distribution records can only be definitively assigned to one species or the other where adult records exist. For brook lamprey in Ireland there are extensive areas of suitable habitat and no significant pressures impacting this species. The Overall Status is therefore assessed as Favourable.
1099	River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatillis*	The inability to distinguish between river lamprey and brook lamprey larvae, and the challenges associated with sampling for adult river lamprey, means that an evaluation of their actual range and population size cannot be undertaken. The Overall Status for river lamprey is therefore assessed as Unknown. The previous reporting period used primarily juvenile Lampetra sp. distribution data for this species.
5046	Killarney shade *Alosa killarnensis*	The entire range of the Killarney shad is protected within Killarney National Park. The Overall Status is assessed as Favourable, as it has been in the last two assessments.
1103	Twite shade *Alosa fallax*	The Overall Status of this species is assessed as Bad with a stable trend, unchanged from the previous assessment. A number of pressures were identified, mainly relating to pollution, alteration of flow patterns, and habitat disturbance. Introduced species were also recorded, with a large population of the Asian clam (Corbicula fluminea) recorded within kilometres of the twaite shad spawning ground on the River Barrow. Furthermore, barriers to migration, such as weirs, can impede or prevent twaite shad accessing spawning habitat, and can also increase the potential for hybridisation between converging populations of twaite and Allis shad simultaneously obstructed below barriers.
5076	Pollan *Coregonus pollan*	Pressures identified for the species include pollution due to agricultural fertiliser application and urban waste water discharge. Invasive species, specifically zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha) and Asian clam (Corbicula fluminea), have also been identified as a significant pressure. Water level regulation may become a concern, as significant alterations or fluctuations in water surface level could have a severe impact on the success of pollan spawning or on the survival of the newly released fertilised eggs. Introduced fish species, namely perch and roach, are a substantial component of the fish community in these lakes and may compete with pollan for food. The Overall Status is assessed as Bad, as in the previous two assessments, but the trend is now known to be stable.
1106	Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*	There is considered to be sufficient habitat in Ireland to support a viable salmon population. Freshwater quality in Ireland continues to remain a

QI Species Code	QI Species Name	Summary Status Description (based on 2019 NPWS Article 17 Report)
		concern but ongoing pressures linked with habitat quality are not considered to be compromising the viability of the species. The Overall Status is assessed as Inadequate, the same as the last assessment. Although a short-term negative trend is reported for this species, the trend has reversed in the last 5 years. Therefore, an overall stable trend is reported.
6284	Natterjack toad *Epidalea calamita*	Poor water quality is the most common pressure on the species, followed by lack of grassland management and predation of tadpoles and eggs by invertebrates. Also of concern are ponds becoming overgrown with emergent vegetation, making them unsuitable for breeding. Invasive species – New Zealand pigmyweed (Crassula helmsii) and sea-buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides) – can also cause problems for the toad. Due to historical declines in range, the Overall Status of the natterjack toad is Bad, as in the previous two assessments. The change in overall trend (from increasing to stable) reflects the most recent survey data, which indicate that the uptake of constructed ponds has not continued at the rate seen in the previous report.
1213	Common frog *Rana temporaria*	The Common Frog appears largely unaffected in Ireland by pollution and disturbance. The most recent national survey estimated the population at over 150,000,000 adults, making it one of the most numerous vertebrates in the country. No significant threats to the frog population have been identified. Overall Status is considered to be Favourable.
1223	Leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*	There are significant difficulties associated with reporting on this species. Despite some recent progress, the population ecology, range and habitat utilisation of this species in the North-East Atlantic are not well understood. Although there is evidence of significant declines of leatherbacks in the Pacific, there are some indications that the Atlantic populations may be faring better, with recent surveys suggesting that numbers of females may be increasing at some nesting beaches. Nonetheless, mortalities of nesting adults and juveniles is a cause for concern in some areas and fishing causes further mortality during the animal's trans-Atlantic migrations. The Overall Status of this species is assessed as Unknown.
1303	Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*	The population overall is doing well; monitoring has demonstrated significant increases in numbers in the core areas. Over much of its distribution, both range and the area of suitable habitat have remained stable. In Limerick and North Kerry, however, worrying declines in habitat, and consequently in range, have been observed. These are considered likely to continue without significant intervention. For these reasons, Habitat, Range and their associated Future prospects, which were all considered to be Favourable in the last report, are now considered Inadequate, and the Overall Status of this species is assessed as Inadequate and declining
1309	Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	There is no indication of any major pressures currently impacting populations and future prospects are considered good. The Overall Status is assessed as Favourable and the overall trend is demonstrating an on-going increase.
5009	Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	There is no indication of any significant pressures impacting on the species, and numbers appear to be increasing. The Overall Status of the species is therefore assessed as Favourable and improving, the same conclusion as the previous assessment.
1317	Nathusius' pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*	The population of Nathusius' pipistrelle in Ireland is cautiously estimated to be 3,000-5,000 individuals. It remains unclear whether the species is successfully reproducing here and what level of population would be required to ensure long-term viability. No pressures appear to be acting on the species, and there are many buildings similar to those used by nursery colonies in Northern Ireland, so suitable habitat does not appear to be a limiting factor. However, given the uncertainty about range and population, the Overall Status is assessed as Unknown, unchanged since the last assessment
1322	Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*	Building renovation and loss of foraging habitat are potential threats for this species but are not considered to be significant. There is no monitoring scheme in place for this species, but the most recent Red Data List for Irish Mammals lists Natterer's bat as Least Concern and the Overall Status has been assessed as Favourable, as in the last two assessments.

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1314	Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*	Although some pressures/threats have been noted, there is no indication of any major pressures currently impacting on the species and future prospects are considered good. The Overall Status is assessed as Favourable and the overall trend is demonstrating an on-going increase.
1330	Whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*	Building renovation and loss of foraging habitat are potential threats for this species but are not considered to be significant. There is no monitoring scheme in place for this species, but the most recent Red Data List for Irish Mammals lists whiskered bat as Least Concern and the Overall Status is assessed as Favourable, unchanged over the last two reporting periods.
1326	Brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*	There is no indication of any major pressures currently impacting the population. The Overall Status is assessed as Favourable and the overall trend is demonstrating an ongoing increase.
1331	Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri*	Two threats/pressures have been identified and need to be investigated further: wind energy, and the impact on roosts associated with deliberate/accidental exclusion from houses. However, there is no evidence of decline in range or habitat and future prospects are considered good. The Overall Status is assessed as Favourable and the overall trend is demonstrating an on-going increase.
1334	Mountain hare *Lepus timidus*	Agricultural intensification is leading to some reduction in habitat quality and a number of related threats have been identified, but the hare has a broad habitat niche, so the impacts of these changes on habitat extent and quality are unknown. The Overall Status of the hare is Favourable.
1355	Otter *Lutra lutra*	The main threats to the otter include pollution, particularly organic pollution resulting in fish kills; and accidental deaths (road traffic and fishing gear). Although recent studies on territory overlaps and animal movements suggest that refinements to the population estimation formula are needed, the otter population (estimated at between 7,000 and 10,000 breeding females) is considered to be increasing and none of the threats or pressures identified are considered likely to impact significantly on the species. The Overall Status of otter is therefore considered to be Favourable, unchanged since the previous reporting period.
1357	Pine marten *Martes martes*	There is ample habitat available across the country to allow the species to continue its spread and to allow the population to expand as well. While some threats have been identified, none of them are considered sufficiently serious to undermine the continued recovery of the species. Therefore, the Overall Status of the pine marten is assessed as Favourable, unchanged since the previous reporting period.
1364	Grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as geophysical seismic exploration or local/regional prey removal by fisheries or by-catch in fisheries. While these pressures may act on a temporary and/ or regional scale and some are likely to continue to act as pressures in the future, none is considered sufficiently serious to adversely impact on grey seal populations in Irish waters. Given the current state of knowledge of the species' distribution, population, ecology and prevailing pressures, the Overall Status is Favourable with an increasing trend.
1365	Harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as local/regional prey removal by fisheries or by-catch in fisheries, or geophysical seismic exploration; other possible impacts may occur from coastal tourism and localised human disturbance at haul-out sites. None of these pressures are considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of harbour seals in Irish waters. The Overall Status of the harbour seal in Ireland is considered to be Favourable, given the current knowledge of the species' population size, distribution, ecology and prevailing pressures on the species.
1345	Humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from shipping movements, geophysical seismic exploration or local/regional prey removal by fisheries. While the effect of these pressures may act on a temporary and/or regional scale, none is considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on

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		populations of humpback whale in Irish waters. The Overall Status of humpback whale in Ireland remains Unknown. This overall result is the same as in the previous two assessments due to limited ongoing information on the species' occurrence and population ecology in Irish waters
1349	Common bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/ regional prey removal by fisheries. While the effect of these pressures may act on a temporary and/or regional scale, none is considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of bottlenose dolphin in Irish waters. The Overall Status of bottlenose dolphin in Ireland remains Favourable. This overall result is the same as the previous two assessments.
1350	Common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/ regional prey removal by fisheries. While these pressures may act on a temporary and/or regional scale, none is considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of common dolphin in Irish waters. The Overall Status of common dolphin in Ireland remains Favourable. This overall result is the same as the previous assessment.
1351	Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal by fisheries. While these pressures may act on a temporary and/or regional scale, none is considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of harbour porpoise in Irish waters. The Overall Status of harbour porpoise in Ireland remains Favourable. This overall result is the same as the previous two assessments.
2027	Killer whale *Orcinus orca*	Pressures on this species in Irish waters involve potential pollutant burdens from man-made Polychlorinated Biphenyl compounds plus other persistent organic pollutants, as well as impacts from commercial vessel-based activities such as geophysical seismic exploration and local/regional prey removal by fisheries. With the exception of pollution, which could be having a significant and wider impact in the North-East Atlantic, no pressures are considered to be adversely impacting on populations of killer whale in Irish waters. The Overall Status of killer whale in Ireland remains Unknown. This overall result is the same as the previous two assessments since there has been no significant improvement in knowledge of the conservation status of the species.
2029	Long-finned pilot whale *Globicephala melas*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities that occur primarily on a local or regional scale and/or on a temporary or intermittent basis, such as impacts arising from shipping movements or geophysical seismic exploration. None of these pressures are considered to be adversely impacting on populations of long-finned pilot whale in Irish waters. The Overall Status of long-finned pilot whale in Ireland remains Favourable, given the current knowledge of the species' population size, distribution, ecology and the prevailing pressures on the species. This overall result is the same as in the previous two assessments
2030	Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration and from local/regional prey removal by fisheries. Another potential pressure is the use of military sonars in the deeper ocean and adjacent continental margins which, while not employed by the Irish Naval Service, is known and documented to occur in the waters of Ireland's EEZ. None of these pressures are considered to adversely impact populations of the species in Irish waters. The Overall Status of Risso's dolphin in Ireland is assessed as Favourable, given the current knowledge of the species' population size, distribution, ecology and the prevailing pressures on the species. This overall result is different from the previous two assessments, in which the status was assessed as Unknown, and it represents a significant improvement in knowledge of the conservation status of the species.

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2031	White-sided dolphin *Lagenorhynchus acutus*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration and from local/regional prey removal by fisheries. None of these are considered to be having an adverse impact on the population in Irish waters. The Overall Status of Atlantic white-sided dolphin in Ireland therefore remains Favourable, given the current knowledge of the species' population size, distribution, ecology and the prevailing pressures on the species. This overall result is the same as the previous two assessments
2032	White-beaked dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*	The main pressures acting on this species in Irish waters involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration and from local/regional prey removal by fisheries. While the effect of these pressures may act on a temporary and/or regional scale, none is considered to be of sufficient magnitude to be causing an adverse impact on populations of white-beaked dolphin in Irish waters. The Overall Status of white-beaked dolphin in Ireland remains Favourable, given the current knowledge of its population size, distribution, ecology and the prevailing pressures on the species. This overall result is the same as the previous assessment.
2034	Striped dolphin *Stenella coeruleoalba*	The main pressures acting on this species in Irish waters involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration and from local/regional prey removal by fisheries. While the effect of these pressures may act on a temporary and/or regional scale, none is considered to be of sufficient magnitude to be causing an adverse impact on populations of striped dolphin in Irish waters. The Overall Status of striped dolphin in Ireland remains Favourable, given the current knowledge of the species' distribution, ecology and the prevailing pressures on the species. This result is the same as the previous assessment.
2035	Cuvier's beaked whale *Ziphius cavirostris*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial shipping based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration and from local/regional prey removal by fisheries. Another potential pressure is the use of military sonars in the deeper ocean and adjacent continental margins which, while not employed by the Irish Naval Service, is known and documented to occur in the waters of Ireland's EEZ. None of these pressures are considered to be significantly impacting on populations of the species in Irish waters. The Overall Status of Cuvier's beaked whale in Ireland is assessed as Favourable. This is different from the previous two assessments (in which the status was assessed as Unknown), due to improved knowledge, higher quality data, and new methods used in the assessment of the conservation status of the species.
2038	Sowerby's beaked whale *Mesoplodon bidens*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration and from local/regional prey removal by fisheries. None of these pressures are considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of Sowerby's beaked whale in Irish waters. The Overall Status of Sowerby's beaked whale in Ireland is assessed as Favourable. This is different from the previous two assessments (in which the status was assessed as Unknown), due to improved knowledge, higher quality data, and new methods used in the assessment of the conservation status of the species.
2618	Minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from shipping movements, geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal by fisheries. None of these pressures are considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of minke whale in Irish waters. The Overall Status of minke whale in Ireland remains Favourable, given current knowledge of the species' population size, distribution, ecology and prevailing pressures on the species. This overall result is the same as in the previous two assessments.
2621	Fin whale *Balaenoptera physalus*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as shipping movements,

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		geophysical seismic exploration or local/regional prey removal by fisheries. None of these are considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of fin whale in Irish waters. The Overall Status of fin whale in Ireland is assessed as Favourable, given the current knowledge of the species' distribution, ecology and prevailing pressures on the species. This overall result is the same as in the previous two assessments.
5020	Blue whale *Balaenoptera musculus*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from shipping movements or geophysical seismic exploration. None of these are considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of blue whale in Irish waters. The Overall Status of the blue whale is considered to be Unknown due to limitations in information on its occurrence and population ecology in Ireland's extensive marine waters. This overall result is the same as in the previous two assessments.
2624	Sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from shipping movements or geophysical seismic exploration. None of these are considered to be of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of sperm whale in Irish waters. The Overall Status of sperm whale is assessed as Favourable given the current knowledge of the species' population size, distribution, ecology and prevailing pressures on the species. This is different from the previous Unknown assessments, due to improved knowledge, higher quality data, and new methods used in the assessment of its conservation status.
5033	Northern bottlenose whale *Hyperoodon ampullatus*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration and from shipping movements. Another potential pressure is the use of military sonars in the deeper ocean and adjacent continental margins which, while not employed by the Irish Naval Service, is known and documented to occur in the waters of Ireland's EEZ. None of these pressures are considered to adversely impact populations of the species in Irish waters. The Overall Status of the northern bottlenose whale is Unknown, as it was for the last two assessments, due to limited ongoing information on the species' occurrence and population ecology in Irish waters.
2619	Sei whale *Balaenoptera borealis*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial shipping-based or vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from shipping movements or geophysical seismic exploration. None of these are of sufficient magnitude to adversely impact on populations of sei whale in Irish waters. The Overall Status of sei whale in Ireland remains Unknown. This result is the same as in the previous two assessments due to limited ongoing information on the species' occurrence and population ecology in Irish waters.
1348	Northern right whale *Eubalaena glacialis*	Little is now known about the occurrence or ecology of this species in the North-East Atlantic, while remnant populations inhabiting North American waters remain extremely vulnerable to ongoing human impacts and potential extinction. No live records have been confirmed from Irish waters in recent decades. In the last 50 years sightings have occurred very occasionally off the European continental shelf and in the mid-Atlantic.
2028	False killer whale *Pseudorca crassidens*	Little is known about the occurrence or ecology of this species in the North-East Atlantic, but it is assumed to be a tropical, sub-tropical and warm temperate deep-water species that feeds on fish and squid and which very occasionally occurs in offshore Irish waters. In the last 50 years rare sightings have occurred off the European continental shelf and in the mid-Atlantic, while only a few sporadic live records have been confirmed from Irish waters in the last 15-20 years.
2037	True's beaked whale *Mesoplodon mirus*	True's beaked whale (Mesoplodon mirus) is one of six species of cetacean (i.e., whales, dolphins and porpoises) that have been very rarely recorded in Irish waters and are therefore termed vagrant species. Difficult to identify in the open ocean, like many beaked whale species its presence and identifying features can be elusive in the field. True's beaked whales are also tricky to

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		separate from their close relatives the Gervais' beaked whales but both are identifiable by a distinct medium-sized beak and adult male True's beaked whales have two prominent teeth at the tip of the lower jaw.
2622	Pygmy sperm whale *Kogia breviceps*	Little is known about the population distribution or ecology of this species in the North-East Atlantic, but it is considered to be a deep-water species that feeds on squid and octopus, and which may occasionally occur in offshore Irish waters. Since only one live record has emerged so far from oceanic waters very far from shore, most information on the species in Ireland has come from the isolated and rare stranding of individual animals.
5029	Beluga / White whale *Delphinapterus leucas*	Little is known about the occurrence or ecology of this species in the North-East Atlantic. It is normally a polar or sub-polar species found in Arctic regions where it feeds on fish and crustaceans. Only three live records have been confirmed from Ireland, one from County Mayo, another from County Cork, and the third sighting, comprising three individuals, made far offshore during an aerial survey in December 2015.
5034	Gervais' beaked whale *Mesoplodon europaeus*	Little is known about the occurrence or ecology of this species in the North-East Atlantic, but it is assumed to be a warm temperate or sub-tropical deep-water species that feeds on squid and possibly fish. Only one record is available from Ireland so far, that being from a stranding in County Sligo.
1102	Allis shad *Alosa alosa*	The Allis shad (Alosa alosa) is a large member of the herring family. It spends much of its life in coastal waters and samples of marine-caught Allis shad have been collected off the south-east coast. This species enters freshwater to breed, with significant penetration of large rivers reported on the continent. There is some evidence of Allis shad entering Irish rivers, with one fish recorded some 40km from the sea on the Slaney. Nonetheless, only a small number of Allis shad have ever been recovered from Irish freshwaters and while there is good evidence of the presence of breeding populations of twaite shad in Irish rivers, the only evidence of breeding by Allis shad is the presence of Allis-twaite hybrids. No juvenile Allis shad have been found during survey work of Irish river systems. Overall it would appear that the Allis shad is an opportunistic spawner in Irish waters. Until evidence of an established breeding population is found, Allis shad is considered a vagrant.
1320	Brandt's bat *Myotis brandtii*	Brandt's bat (Myotis brandtii) is a cryptic species, requiring genetic determination to separate it from the whiskered bat (M. mystacinus). Following the initial confirmation of a specimen of Brandt's bat in Wicklow in 2006, further records were expected. However, extensive survey work at potential roosts and swarming sites since then has failed to locate any. The species is now considered a vagrant and was not assessed in the current report.

Appendix E
Threats and Pressures to EU Protected Habitats and Species

Appendix E Table 1: Threats and pressures to EU protected habitats and species

Code	Pressure/Threat
PA	**Agriculture related practices**
PA01	Cultivation
PA02	Modification of cultivation practices
PA03	Agricultural intensification
PA04	Agricultural land parcel consolidation
PA05	Abandonment of management/use of grasslands and agroforestry systems
PA06	Mowing/cutting grasslands
PA07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock
PA08	Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock
PA09	Burning for agriculture
PA10	Livestock farming (without grazing)
PA11	Soil management practices in agriculture (e.g. ploughing)
PA12	Harvesting of crops and cutting of croplands
PA13	Application of natural or synthetic fertilisers on agricultural land
PA14	Use of plant protection chemicals in agriculture
PA15	Use of other pest control methods in agriculture (excluding tillage)
PA16	Introduction and spread of new organisms (including GMOs)
PA17	Agricultural activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine)
PA18	Agricultural activities generating air pollution
PA19	Agricultural activities generating soil pollution
PA20	Livestock farming generating pollution
PA21	Active abstraction of water for agriculture
PA22	Drainage for use as agricultural land
PA23	Physical alteration of water bodies (including dams, channels, etc.)
PA24	Agricultural crops for renewable energy production
PA25	Agriculture activities not referred to above
PA09	Burning for agriculture
PA10	Livestock farming (without grazing)
PA11	Soil management practices in agriculture (e.g. ploughing)
PA12	Harvesting of crops and cutting of croplands
PA13	Application of natural or synthetic fertilisers on agricultural land
PA14	Use of plant protection chemicals in agriculture
PA15	Use of other pest control methods in agriculture (excluding tillage)
PA16	Introduction and spread of new organisms (including GMOs)
PA17	Agricultural activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine)
PA18	Agricultural activities generating air pollution
PA19	Agricultural activities generating soil pollution
PA20	Livestock farming generating pollution

Code	Pressure/Threat
PA21	Active abstraction of water for agriculture
PA22	Drainage for use as agricultural land
PA23	Physical alteration of water bodies (including dams, channels, etc.)
PA24	Agricultural crops for renewable energy production
PA25	Agriculture activities not referred to above
PB	**Forestry related Practices**
PB01	Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)
PB02	Conversion from one type of forestry land use to another
PB03	Introduction and spread of new species for forestry purposes (including GMOs)
PB04	Abandonment of traditional forest management
PB05	Logging without replanting or natural regrowth
PB06	Logging or thinning (excluding clear cutting)
PB07	Removal of dead and dying trees (including debris)
PB08	Removal of old trees (excluding dead or dying trees)
PB09	Clear-cutting, removal of all trees
PB10	Illegal logging
PB11	Exploitation of forestry products (excluding logging)
PB12	Burning for forestry
PB13	Suppression of fire for forestry
PB14	Forest management reducing old growth forests
PB15	Wood transport
PB16	Application of natural or synthetic fertilisers in forestry
PB17	Use of plant protection chemicals in forestry
PB18	Use of other pest control methods in forestry (e.g. physical plant protection)
PB19	Forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine)
PB20	Forestry activities generating air pollution
PB21	Forestry activities generating soil pollution
PB22	Forestry activities generating noise pollution
PB23	Physical alteration of water bodies for forestry (including dams)
PB24	Drainage for forestry
PB25	Forest plantations for renewable energy production
PB26	Other forestry activities, excluding those relating to agro-forestry
PC	**Extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources)**
PC01	Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell)
PC02	Extraction of salt
PC03	Extraction of oil and gas (including infrastructure)
PC04	Coal mining
PC05	Peat extraction
PC06	Dumping/depositing of inert and dredged materials from terrestrial and marine extraction
PC07	Geotechnical surveying
PC08	Extraction activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters
PC09	Extraction activities generating marine pollution
PC10	Extraction activities generating soil pollution
PC11	Extraction activities generating noise, light or other forms of pollution
PC12	Abstraction of surface and ground water for resource extraction

Code	Pressure/Threat
PC13	Mining and extraction activities not referred to above
PD	**Energy production processes and related infrastructure development**
PD01	Wind, wave, and tidal power (including infrastructure)
PD02	Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river, and respective infrastructure)
PD03	Solar power (including infrastructure)
PD04	Geothermal power generation (including infrastructure)
PD05	Development and operation of energy production plants (including infrastructure)
PD06	Transmission of electricity and communications (cables)
PD07	Oil and gas pipelines
PD08	Energy production and transmission activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters
PD09	Energy production and transmission activities generating air pollution
PD10	Energy production and transmission activities generating marine pollution
PD11	Energy production and transmission activities generating noise pollution
PD12	Energy production and transmission activities generating light, heat, or other forms pollution
PD13	Abstraction of surface and ground water for energy production (excluding hydropower)
PD14	Energy production and transmission activities not referred to above
PE	**Development and operation of transport systems**
PE01	Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure
PE02	Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations
PE03	Shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g. canalisation, dredging)
PE04	Flight paths of planes, helicopter, and other non-leisure aircrafts
PE05	Land, water, and air transport activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters
PE06	Land, water, and air transport activities generating air pollution
PE07	Land, water, and air transport activities generating marine pollution
PE08	Land, water, and air transport activities generating noise, light and other forms of pollution
PE09	Land, water, and air transport activities not referred to above
PF	**Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational infrastructure and areas**
PF01	Conversion from other land uses to built-up areas
PF02	Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing built-up areas
PF03	Creation or development of sports, tourism and leisure infrastructure
PF04	Development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation
PF05	Sports, tourism, and leisure activities
PF06	Deposition and treatment of waste/rubbish from built-up areas
PF07	Residential and commercial activities and structures generating pollution to surface or ground waters
PF08	Industrial activities and structures generating pollution to surface or ground waters
PF09	Residential, commercial, and industrial activities and structures generating air pollution
PF10	Residential, commercial, and industrial activities and structures generating marine pollution
PF11	Residential, commercial, and industrial activities and structures generating soil pollution
PF12	Residential, commercial, and industrial activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution
PF13	Drainage, land reclamation and conversion of wetlands, marshes, bogs, etc. for built-up areas
PF14	Modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for built-up areas
PF15	Modification of coastline, estuary, and coastal conditions for built-up areas
PF16	Construction or development of reservoirs and dams for built-up areas
PF17	Active abstraction of water for built-up areas

Code	Pressure/Threat
PG	**Extraction and cultivation of biological living resources (other than agriculture and forestry)**
PG01	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species (professional)
PG02	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species (recreational)
PG03	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats
PG04	Marine fish and shellfish processing
PG05	Marine plant harvesting
PG06	Freshwater fish and shellfish harvesting (professional)
PG07	Freshwater fish and shellfish harvesting (recreational)
PG08	Hunting
PG09	Management of fishing stocks and game
PG10	Harvesting or collecting of wild plants, fungi, and animals on terrestrial land
PG11	Illegal shooting/killing
PG12	Illegal harvesting, collecting, and taking of plants and fungi
PG13	Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities)
PG14	Poisoning of animals (excluding lead poisoning)
PG15	Use of lead ammunition or fishing weights
PG16	Modification of coastal conditions for marine aquaculture
PG17	Active abstraction of water bodies for aquaculture
PG18	Physical alterations of water bodies for aquaculture (including channels, weirs, and dams)
PG19	Marine aquaculture generating marine pollution
PG20	Freshwater aquaculture generating pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine)
PG21	Introduction and spread of new species in aquaculture (including GMOs)
PG22	Abandonment of aquaculture
PG23	Other activities related to aquaculture and extraction, or cultivation of biological living resources not referred to above
PH	**Military action, public safety measures, and other human intrusions**
PH01	Military, paramilitary or police exercises and operations on land and freshwater
PH02	Military, paramilitary or police exercises and operations in the marine environment
PH03	Abandonment of terrestrial military or similar exercises (loss of open habitats)
PH04	Vandalism or arson (incl. human-introduced wild fire)
PH05	Tree surgery, felling/removal of roadside trees and vegetation for public safety
PH06	Closure or restricted access to site/habitat
PH07	Intrusive and destructive research and monitoring activities
PH08	Other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above
PI	**Alien and problematic species**
PI01	Invasive alien species of Union concern
PI02	Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)
PI03	Problematic native species
PI04	Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests
PJ	**Climate change**
PJ01	Temperature changes and extremes due to climate change
PJ02	Permafrost thawing due to climate change
PJ03	Changes in precipitation regimes due to climate change
PJ04	Sea-level rise due to climate change

Code	Pressure/Threat
PJ05	Saline intrusion
PJ06	Wave exposure changes due to climate change
PJ07	Cyclones, storms, or tornados due to climate change
PJ08	Soil degradation and erosion due to climate change
PJ09	Landslides, subsidence, and solifluction due to climate change
PJ10	Change of habitat location, size, and / or quality due to climate change
PJ11	Desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change
PJ12	Decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
PJ13	Change of species distribution (natural newcomers) due to climate change
PJ14	Other climate related changes in abiotic conditions
PK	**Mixed source pollution**
PK01	Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)
PK02	Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal)
PK03	Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants
PK04	Atmospheric N-deposition
PK05	Mixed source soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)
PK06	Non-chemical mixed source pollution
PL	**Human-induced changes in water regimes**
PL01	Abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water (mixed or unknown drivers)
PL02	Drainage (mixed or unknown drivers)
PL03	Old barriers or other obsolete infrastructures (mixed or unknown drivers)
PL04	Development and operation of dams (mixed or unknown drivers)
PL05	Modification of hydrological flow (mixed or unknown drivers)
PL06	Physical alteration of water bodies (mixed or unknown drivers)
PM	**Geological events, natural processes, and catastrophes**
PM01	Storm or cyclone
PM02	Flooding
PM03	Natural wildfires
PM04	Earthquake and volcanic activity
PM05	Avalanches, landslides and collapse of terrain
PM06	Other natural catastrophes
PM07	Natural processes without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change
PX	**Unknown pressures, no pressures and pressures form outside the member state**
PX01	Threats and pressures from outside the EU territory
PX02	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State
PX03	Unknown pressures or threats
PX04	No pressures or threats
PX05	No information on pressures or threats

Source: EIONET Datasheet – List of pressures and threats for the period 2019-2024-datasheets-May- 2023 (Accessed November-2023).