

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Cork Harbour SPA 004030



An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



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Citation:

**NPWS (201) Conservation Objectives: Cork Harbour SPA 004030. Version 1.
National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the
Gaeltacht.**

**Series Editor: Rebecca Jeffrey
ISSN 2009-4086**

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Notes/Guidelines:

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

Qualifying Interests

* indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive

004030	Cork Harbour SPA
A004	Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
A005	Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
A017	Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
A028	Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>
A048	Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
A050	Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>
A052	Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>
A054	Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>
A056	Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>
A069	Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>
A130	Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
A140	Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
A141	Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
A142	Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
A149	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
A156	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>
A160	Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>
A162	Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>
A179	Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
A182	Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>
A183	Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>
A193	Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>
A999	Wetlands

Please note that this SPA overlaps with Great Island Channel SAC (001058). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping site as appropriate.

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year : 2014
Title : Cork Harbour SPA (site code: 4030) Conservation objectives supporting document V1
Author : NPWS
Series : Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year : 1985
Title : Breeding seabirds on the east Cork coastline
Author : Smiddy, P.
Series : Cork Bird Report 1984: 46-50

Year : 1995
Title : Seabird monitoring handbook for Britain and Ireland: a compilation of methods for survey and monitoring of breeding seabirds
Author : Walsh, P.; Halley, D.J.; Harris, M.P.; del Nevo, A.; Sim, I.M.W.; Tasker, M.L.
Series : JNCC, Peterborough

Year : 1996
Title : Handbook of birds of the world volume 3: hoatzin to auks
Author : del Hoyo, J.; Elliott, A.; Sargatal, J.
Series : Lynx Edicions, Barcelona

Year : 2000
Title : Common terns *Sterna hirundo* nesting on Cork Harbour
Author : Wilson, J.; O'Mahony, B.; Smiddy, P.
Series : Irish Birds Vol. 6(4)

Year : 2014
Title : Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) Database
Author : JNCC
Series : <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/smp/Default.aspx>

Year : 2014
Title : BirdLife International Seabird Ecology and Foraging Range Database
Author : BirdLife International
Series : <http://seabird.wikispaces.com>

Year : 2014
Title : Chapter 15 in: Ringaskiddy Port Redevelopment. Environmental Impact Statement
Author : RPS
Series : Report to Port of Cork

A004 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Little Grebe in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by little grebe, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A005 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Great Crested Grebe in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by great crested grebe, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A017 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Cormorant in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by cormorant, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A028 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Heron in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by grey heron, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A048 *Shelduck Tadorna tadorna*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shelduck in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by shelduck, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Cork Harbour SPA [004030]

A050 *Wigeon Anas penelope*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Wigeon in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by wigeon, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A052 Teal *Anas crecca*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by teal, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A054 Pintail *Anas acuta*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Pintail in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by pintail, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A056 Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shoveler in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by shoveler, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A069 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Red-breasted Merganser in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by red-breasted merganser, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A130 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oystercatcher in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by oystercatcher, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document

A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by golden plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by grey plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A142 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by lapwing, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives

A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by dunlin, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A156 **Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by curlew, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A164 Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Greenshank in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by greenshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document

A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-headed gull other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A182 Common Gull *Larus canus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Gull in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by common gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lesser Black-backed Gull in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by lesser black-backed gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Cork Harbour SPA [004030]

A193 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Tern in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Breeding population abundance: apparently occupied nests (AONs)	Number	No significant decline	Measure based on standard tern survey methods (see Walsh et al., 1995). Wilson et al. (2000) provides background summary population information for the Cork Harbour area. In 2012 the total population of common terns that nested within the wider Cork Harbour was between 85 and 95 pairs, a proportion of which now breeds outside the SPA (RPS, 2014)
Productivity rate: fledged young per breeding pair	Mean number	No significant decline	Measure based on standard tern survey methods (see Walsh et al., 1995). The Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) (JNCC, 2014) provides population data for this species
Distribution: breeding colonies	Number; location; area (hectares)	No significant decline	Common tern breeding colonies can be sited in both coastal and inland areas using a wide variety of habitats including sandy, rocky or well-vegetated islands in estuaries, lakes and rivers. This species can also use artificial substrates (Del Hoyo et al., 1996). First recorded nesting in saltmarsh in 1969-70 (Smiddy, 1985), the colony now largely breeds on artificial structures in at least two locations (see Wilson et al., 2000 and RPS, 2014)
Prey biomass available	Kilogrammes	No significant decline	Key prey items: Small fish, crustaceans, insects and occasionally squid. Key habitats: common tern forage in/over shallow coastal waters, bays, inlets, shoals, tidal-rips, drift lines, beaches, saltmarsh creeks, lakes, ponds or rivers. Foraging range: max. 37km, mean max. 33.81km, mean 8.67km (Birdlife International Seabird Database (Birdlife International, 2014))
Barriers to connectivity	Number; location; shape; area (hectares)	No significant increase	Seabird species can make extensive use of marine waters adjacent to their breeding colonies. Foraging range: max. 37km, mean max. 33.81km, mean 8.67km (BirdLife International Seabird Database (Birdlife International, 2014))
Disturbance at the breeding site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the breeding common tern population	In the Cork Harbour area, this species largely breeds on artificial structures (see Wilson et al., 2000 and RPS, 2014)


A999 Wetlands


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. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 2,587 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 2,587ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document



Legend

 Cork Harbour SPA 004030

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 Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

**MAP 1:
 CORK HARBOUR SPA
 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
 SPA DESIGNATION**

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

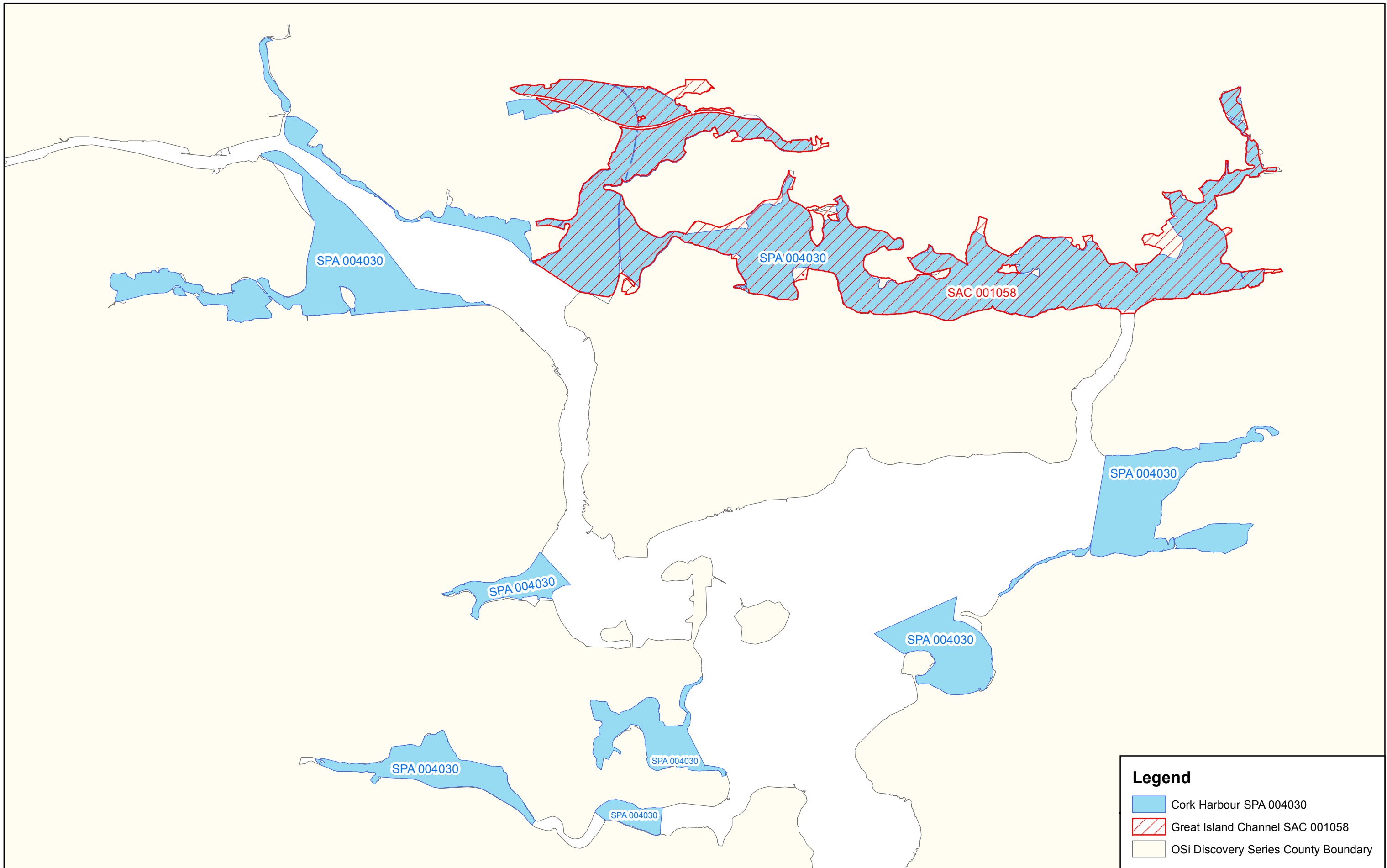
**SITE CODE:
 SAC 004030; version 2.04. CO. CORK**

0 1 2 3 4 km

The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.
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**Map Version 1
 Date: Dec 2014**



Legend

- Cork Harbour SPA 004030
- Great Island Channel SAC 001058
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary