Introduction

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>002259</td>
<td>Tory Island Coast SAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1150</td>
<td>Coastal lagoons*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1170</td>
<td>Reefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1220</td>
<td>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1230</td>
<td>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that this SAC overlaps with Tory Island SPA (004073). 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

NPWS Documents

Year : 1999
Title : National Shingle Beach Survey of Ireland 1999
Author : Moore, D.; Wilson, F.
Series : Unpublished Report to NPWS

Year : 2007
Title : Inventory of Irish coastal lagoons (version 2)
Author : Oliver, G.
Series : Unpublished report to NPWS

Year : 2011
Title : National survey and assessment of the conservation status of Irish sea cliffs
Author : Barron, S.J.; Delaney, A.; Perrin, P.M.; Martin, J.; O'Neill, F.
Series : Irish Wildlife Manual No. 53

Year : 2015
Title : Tory Island Coast SAC (site code: 2259) Conservation objectives supporting document - coastal habitats V1
Author : NPWS
Series : Conservation objectives supporting document

Year : 2015
Title : Tory Island Coast SAC (site code: 2259) Conservation objectives supporting document - marine habitats V1
Author : NPWS
Series : Conservation objectives supporting document

Year : 2015
Title : Tory Island Coast SAC (site code: 2259) Conservation Objectives supporting document - coastal lagoons V1
Author : NPWS
Series : Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year : 1997
Title : The BioMar biotope viewer: a guide to marine habitats, fauna and flora in Britain and Ireland
Author : Picton, B.E.; Costello, M.J.
Series : Environmental Science Unit, Trinity College Dublin

Year : 2012
Title : Intertidal and subtidal reef survey of Tory Island Coast SAC
Author : MERC
Series : Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS

Year : 2013
Title : Monitoring and assessment of Irish lagoons for the purposes of the EU Water Framework Directive, 2009-2011. Parts 1 and 2
Author : Roden, C.M; Oliver, G.A.
Series : Unpublished report to the Environmental Protection Agency
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>GIS Operations</th>
<th>Used For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revision 2011</td>
<td>Inventory of Irish coastal lagoons. Version 3</td>
<td>Clipped to SAC boundary 1150 (map 3)</td>
<td>1150 (map 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpolated 2014</td>
<td>1995 BioMar survey; 2012 intertidal and subtidal reef surveys</td>
<td>Polygon feature classes from marine community types base data sub-divided based on interpolation of marine survey data. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising</td>
<td>1170, marine community types (maps 4 and 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>OSi Discovery series vector data</td>
<td>High water mark (HWM) and low water mark (LWM) polyline feature classes converted into polygon feature classes and combined; EU Annex I Saltmarsh and Coastal data erased out if present</td>
<td>Marine community types base data (map 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision 2012</td>
<td>National shingle beach survey</td>
<td>Clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising</td>
<td>1220 (map 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>National survey and assessment of the conservation status of Irish sea cliffs</td>
<td>Clipped to SAC boundary</td>
<td>1230 (map 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To restore the favourable conservation condition of Coastal lagoons in Tory Island Coast SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitat area</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>Area stable, subject to slight natural variation. Favourable reference area 3.2ha, See map 3</td>
<td>Areas calculated from spatial data derived from Oliver (2007). Site code IL084 (Loch Ó Dheas). See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat distribution</td>
<td>Occurrence</td>
<td>No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 3 for mapped lagoon</td>
<td>Site IL084 in Oliver (2007). See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinity regime</td>
<td>Practical salinity units (psu)</td>
<td>Median annual salinity and temporal variation within natural ranges</td>
<td>Loch Ó Dheas is recorded as a oligohaline lagoon. See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrological regime</td>
<td>Metres</td>
<td>Annual water level fluctuations and minima within natural ranges</td>
<td>Maximum depth of Loch Ó Dheas lagoon is recorded as 1.5m. See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrier: connectivity between lagoon and sea</td>
<td>Permeability</td>
<td>Appropriate hydrological connections between lagoons and sea, including where necessary, appropriate management</td>
<td>Loch Ó Dheas is described as a natural sedimentary lagoon with a cobble barrier. See the conservation objective for perennial vegetation of stony banks (1220) and the lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality: Chlorophyll a</td>
<td>µg/L</td>
<td>Annual median chlorophyll a within natural ranges and less than 5µg/L</td>
<td>Target based on Roden and Oliver (2013). See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality: Molybdate Reactive Phosphorus (MRP)</td>
<td>mg/L</td>
<td>Annual median MRP within natural ranges and less than 0.1mg/L</td>
<td>Target based on Roden and Oliver (2013). See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality: Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)</td>
<td>mg/L</td>
<td>Annual median DIN within natural ranges and less than 0.15mg/L</td>
<td>Target based on Roden and Oliver (2013). See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth of macrophyte colonisation</td>
<td>Metres</td>
<td>Macrophyte colonisation to maximum depth of lagoon</td>
<td>Increased depth of colonisation increases both the extent and diversity of submerged macrophytes. Where a lagoon is less than 2m deep, it is expected that macrophyte colonisation would extend to the full depth. See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical plant species</td>
<td>Number and m²</td>
<td>Maintain number and extent of listed lagoonal specialists, subject to natural variation</td>
<td>Species listed in Oliver (2007). See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical animal species</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Maintain listed lagoon specialists, subject to natural variation</td>
<td>Species listed in Oliver (2007). See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative indicator species</td>
<td>Number and percentage cover</td>
<td>Negative indicator species absent or under control</td>
<td>Low salinity, shallow water and elevated nutrient levels increase the threat of unnatural encroachment by reedbeds. See lagoons supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs in Tory Island Coast SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitat area</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 4</td>
<td>Habitat area estimated as 2,072ha from a 1995 BioMar survey and 2012 intertidal and subtidal reef surveys (MERC, 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>Occurrence</td>
<td>The distribution of reefs is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 4 for mapped distribution</td>
<td>Based on information from a 1995 BioMar survey and 2012 intertidal and subtidal reef surveys (MERC, 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community structure</td>
<td>Biological composition</td>
<td>Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal reef community complex; Laminaria-dominated community complex; Subtidal reef with echinoderms and faunal turf community complex. See map 5</td>
<td>Reef mapping based on information from a 1995 BioMar survey and 2012 intertidal and subtidal reef surveys (MERC, 2012). See marine supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Conservation Objectives for: Tory Island Coast SAC [002259]

#### 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in Tory Island Coast SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitat area</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession</td>
<td>Current area unknown. It was recorded as being present but extent was not mapped from one sub-site (Tory Island) during the National Shingle Beach Survey (NSBS) (Moore and Wilson, 1999). NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat distribution</td>
<td>Occurrence</td>
<td>No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6 for survey site location</td>
<td>Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply</td>
<td>Presence/ absence of physical barriers</td>
<td>Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions</td>
<td>The shingle beaches within this SAC appear to be functioning naturally, with no artificial restrictions to beach dynamics (Moore and Wilson, 1999). Shingle features are relatively stable in the long term. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation structure: zonation</td>
<td>Occurrence</td>
<td>Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession</td>
<td>Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). The vegetated shingle is associated with rocky shore. Lichens are present, indicating a degree of stability. See the conservation objective for rocky shore (1150) and the coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities</td>
<td>Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops</td>
<td>Maintain the typical vegetated shingle flora including the range of sub-communities within the different zones</td>
<td>Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). Tory Island supports good quality vegetated shingle flora. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation composition: negative indicator species</td>
<td>Percentage cover</td>
<td>Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover</td>
<td>Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conservation Objectives for : Tory Island Coast SAC [002259]

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts in Tory Island Coast SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitat length</td>
<td>Kilometres</td>
<td>Area stable, subject to natural processes, including erosion. For sub-site mapped: Tory Island - 9.49km. See map 6</td>
<td>Based on data from the Irish Sea Cliff Survey (ISCS) (Barron et al., 2011). Cliffs are linear features and are therefore measured in kilometres. One sub-site was identified using a combination of aerial photos and the DCENR helicopter viewer. The length of the cliff was measured (in sections) to give a total estimated area of 9.49km within the SAC. This is likely to be an under-estimate. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat distribution</td>
<td>Occurrence</td>
<td>No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 6</td>
<td>Cliffs are known to occur along the northern shore of Tory Island. Hard cliffs are the main cliff type within this SAC (Browne, 2005; Barron et al., 2011). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical structure: functionallity and hydrological regime</td>
<td>Occurrence of artificial barriers</td>
<td>No alteration to natural functioning of geomorphological and hydrological processes due to artificial structures</td>
<td>Maintaining natural geomorphological processes including natural erosion is important for the health of a vegetated sea cliff. Hydrological processes maintain flushes and in some cases tufa formations that can be associated with sea cliffs. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation structure: zonation</td>
<td>Occurrence</td>
<td>Maintain range of sea cliff habitat zonations including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession</td>
<td>Based on data from Barron et al. (2011). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation structure: vegetation height</td>
<td>Centimetres</td>
<td>Maintain structural variation within sward</td>
<td>Based on data from Barron et al. (2011). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities</td>
<td>Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops</td>
<td>Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in the Irish Sea Cliff Survey (Barron et al., 2011)</td>
<td>Based on data from Barron et al. (2011). Scot’s lovage (Ligusticum scoticum) was recorded at sea cliffs at this site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation composition: negative indicator species</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover</td>
<td>Based on data from Barron et al. (2011). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation composition: bracken and woody species</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Cover of bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) on grassland and/or heath less than 10%. Cover of woody species on grassland and/or heath less than 20%</td>
<td>Based on data from Barron et al. (2011). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legend
- Tory Island Coast SAC 002259
- Tory Island SPA 004073
- OSI Discovery Series County Boundary

Map 2: Tory Island Coast SAC Conservation Objectives Adjacent / Overlapping Designations

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

Site Code:
SAC 002259; version 3.01. CO. DONEGAL

The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.

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MAP 3: TORY ISLAND COAST SAC CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES COASTAL LAGOONS

Legend

- Tory Island Coast SAC 002259
- Coastal lagoons
- OSI Discovery Series County Boundary

MAP 3: TORY ISLAND COAST SAC CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

SITE CODE:
SAC 002259; version 3.01. CO. DONEGAL

The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.

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L. O Dheas, Tory Is. IL084
Map Version 1
Date: March 2015

MAP 4:
TORY ISLAND COAST SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
REEFS

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

Legend

Tory Island Coast SAC 002259
1170 Reefs
OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

SITE CODE:
SAC 002259; version 3.01. CO. DONEGAL
MAP 5: TORY ISLAND COAST SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
MARINE COMMUNITY TYPES
SITE CODE: SAC 002259; version 3.01. CO. DONEGAL

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

Legend
- Tory Island SAC 002259
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

Marine Community Types
- Intertidal reef community complex
- Laminaria-dominated community complex
- Subtidal reef with echinoderms and faunal turf community complex

The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.

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Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuiomhach ginearálta. Féadfar athbhreithnithe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaithe. Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh EN 0059214. © Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Rialtas na hÉireann

Map Version 1
Date: March 2015
MAP 6: TORY ISLAND COAST SAC CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
PERENNIAL VEGETATION OF STONY BANKS & VEGETATED SEA CLIFFS

Legend

- Tory Island Coast SAC 002259
- National Shingle Beach Survey sub-sites
- 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
- OSI Discovery Series County Boundary

SITE CODE:
SAC 002259; version 3.01. CO. DONEGAL

The mapped boundaries are indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.

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Map Version 1
Date: March 2015