Conservation Objectives Series

North-west Porcupine Bank SAC 002330
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>002330</th>
<th>North-west Porcupine Bank SAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1170</td>
<td>Reefs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### NPWS Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Habitat Mapping of Geogenic Reef Offshore Ireland</td>
<td>Guinan, J.; Leahy, Y.</td>
<td>Report prepared by the Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland and Geological Survey of Ireland for NPWS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Spatial data sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>GIS Operations</th>
<th>Used For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>INFOMAR dataset</td>
<td>Bathymetric dataset used to derive spatial footprint of reef features; clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising</td>
<td>1170, Marine community types (maps 2, 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Irish National Seabed Survey</td>
<td>Bathymetric dataset used to derive spatial footprint of reef features; clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising</td>
<td>1170, Marine community types (maps 2, 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Conservation Objectives for: North-west Porcupine Bank SAC [002330]

#### Reefs

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs in North-west Porcupine Bank 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>Area of geological features</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>The permanent area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 2</td>
<td>Habitat area estimated as 2,357ha, with an additional 117km of linear features, based on information from the national seabed mapping programme INFOMAR (Dorschel et al., 2010) and the Irish National Seabed Survey (GSI, 2002). See the North-west Porcupine Bank SAC conservation objectives supporting document for marine habitats for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>Occurrence</td>
<td>The distribution of reefs is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3</td>
<td>Based on information from the national seabed mapping programme INFOMAR (Dorschel et al., 2010) and the Irish National Seabed Survey (GSI, 2002). Map 3 shows the mapped geological features, which are used as indicators of the distribution of the reefs habitat. See the marine habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical structure: habitat-forming species</td>
<td>Presence and structure integrity of the North-west Porcupine Bank reef community complex, subject to natural processes</td>
<td>Maintain the structural integrity of the North-west Porcupine Bank reef community complex, subject to natural processes</td>
<td>Based on information from Guinan and Leahy (2010), Rengstorf et al. (2013), Ross et al. (2018) and Forde et al. (in prep.). See the marine habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community structure</td>
<td>Biological composition</td>
<td>Conserve North-west Porcupine Bank reef community complex in a natural condition, subject to natural processes</td>
<td>Based on information from Guinan and Leahy (2010), Rengstorf et al. (2013), Ross et al. (2018) and Forde et al. (in prep.). See the marine habitats supporting document for further details</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

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

Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No OSI-NMA-014. © Ordnance Survey of Ireland Government of Ireland

Nil ina-leonimseach ar na liciantaimeacha sin nó faoi chúnamhchín freisin. Fadhbanna athbhreithniúthai e dearnach ar theorainneacha na gcainteoirí chreidh. Sunbhliantaise Oideachais na hÉireann Caistriúcháin (h30) OSI-NMA-014. © Sunbhliantaise Oideachais na hÉireann-Rialtas na hÉireann

Legend

North-west Porcupine Bank SAC 002330

SITE CODE:
SAC 002330; version 1.0

MAP 1:
NORTH-WEST PORCUPINE BANK SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
SAC DESIGNATION

OceanWise, Esri, GEBCO, Delorme, NaturalVue

GSI, Esri, DeLorme, NaturalVue
Map Version 1
Date: Dec 2021
The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.

Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No OSI-NMA-014. © Ordnance Survey of Ireland Government of Ireland

Níl na teorainneacha anach nach ghnáth iomhachtach. THEORETICAL BOUNDARIES ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION.

Suirbheachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh OSI-NMA-014. © Suirbheachta Ordonáis Rialtas na hÉireann

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.
The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.

Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No OSI-NMA-014. © Ordnance Survey of Ireland Government of Ireland

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 OSI-NMA-014. © Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Rialtas na hÉireann

Legend
- Escarpments
- Canyons
- Mounds
- North-west Porcupine Bank SAC 002330

SITE CODE:
SAC 002330; version 1.0

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

Map Version 1
Date: Dec 2021