

GOVERNMENT NOTICE
SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION
OFF-SHORE WEST AND SOUTH WEST IRELAND
NOTICE TO ALL SHIPOWNERS, FISHING VESSEL OWNERS, AGENTS, SHIPMASTERS, SKIPPERS, FISHERMEN, YACHTSMEN and SEAFARERS

Mr Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, wishes to notify marine users that it is proposed to designate marine sites off the West and South-West Coast of Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation in accordance with the 'European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997' SI 94/1997 as amended by SI 233/1998 & SI 378/2005. These regulations provide a mechanism for formally designating and protecting important ecological areas of significance. SACs will form part of "Natura 2000", a network of protected sites throughout the European Union.

The sites (as listed below and indicated on map) have been identified as being of ecological importance and are being proposed as Special Areas of Conservation. The relevant areas are indicated on the accompanying map. Under the provisions of the 'European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations', users of the areas designated are obliged to consult with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government before undertaking certain activities which may adversely effect these areas.

Marine users and others, identified by the National Parks & Wildlife Service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, as holding rights or licences in Special Areas of Conservation are notified directly in writing. They are provided with a site map, site description, list of activities that may damage the sites, procedures for objecting to the designation proposals and details of compensation provisions. Objections (on scientific grounds only) to the proposals may be submitted within 3 months from the date of this notice.

Marine users and those affected by the designation in the following areas, who have not received formal notification may contact National Parks & Wildlife Service at Freephone 1 800 40 5000, e-mail natureconservation@environ.ie or contact the local National Parks & Wildlife Service Conservation Ranger (listed in the State Directory pages of the Phone Book).

The grid references listed identify the boundaries of each Special Area of Conservation (Geographic Co-ordinate System: WGS84)

Site Code	Special Area of Conservation name & co-ordinates	Area
002327	BELGICA MOUND PROVINCE 51° 29' 24"N, 11° 51' 36"W; 51° 32' 24"N, 11° 41' 24"W; 51° 13' 48"N, 11° 44' 24"W; 51° 17' 24"N, 11° 33' 00"W	411 km ²
002328	HOVLAND MOUND PROVINCE 52° 16' 12"N, 13° 12' 36"W; 52° 24' 00"N, 12° 58' 12"W; 52° 16' 48"N, 12° 54' 00"W; 52° 16' 48"N, 12° 29' 24"W; 52° 09' 00"N, 13° 10' 48"W; 52° 09' 00"N, 12° 56' 00"W; 52° 04' 12"N, 12° 52' 48"W; 52° 04' 12"N, 12° 29' 24"W	1,086 km ²
002329	SOUTH-WEST PORCUPINE BANK 51° 54' 36"N, 15° 07' 12"W; 51° 54' 36"N, 14° 55' 12"W; 51° 49' 12"N, 15° 06' 00"W; 51° 42' 00"N, 15° 10' 12"W; 51° 42' 00"N, 14° 55' 12"W	329 km ²
002330	NORTH-WEST PORCUPINE BANK 53° 35' 24"N, 14° 27' 36"W; 53° 51' 36"N, 13° 53' 24"W; 53° 45' 36"N, 13° 49' 48"W; 53° 35' 24"N, 14° 10' 48"W; 53° 31' 48"N, 14° 14' 24"W; 53° 24' 00"N, 14° 28' 48"W; 53° 30' 36"N, 14° 32' 24"W	716 km ²

