## Addition of Bottlenose Dolphin as a new Qualifying Interest and the addition of an Activity Requiring Consent to St. John's Point Special Area of Conservation 000191 in County Donegal

Ireland designates Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in its inshore and offshore waters to protect marine habitats and species listed on Annex I and Annex II of the 1992 EU Habitats Directive.

The Minister has added Bottlenose Dolphin as a Qualifying Interest to St. John's Point SAC 000191 in County Donegal.

The full list of Qualifying Interests, including the newly added Bottlenose Dolphin, for St. John's Point SAC is as follows:

## **Natural Habitat Type**

In this list the sign [\*] indicates a priority habitat type as defined in the Directive.

| Natura 2000 Code | Description  |
|------------------|--|
| 1160             | Large shallow inlets and bays  |
| 1170             | Reefs  |
| 1230             | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts   |
| 6210             | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)* |
| 6410             | Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)                                       |
| 7230             | Alkaline fens  |
| 8240             | Limestone pavements*   |
| 8330             | Submerged or partially submerged sea caves   |

## **Animal and Plant Species**

| Natura 2000 Code | <b>Common Name</b> | Scientific Name    |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1065             | Marsh Fritillary   | Euphydryas aurinia |
| 1349             | Bottlenose Dolphin | Tursiops truncatus |

The addition of Bottlenose Dolphin to the list of Qualifying Interests has resulted in an additional activity (ARC 35) being added to the list of Activities Requiring Consent (ARCs) that apply to this site. The Minister has reason to believe that this activity may cause disturbance of and may impact on the conservation status of this species. Therefore, the Minister has issued a new Direction adding ARC 35 to the list of

ARCs that apply to this site and has directed that these activities cannot be carried out, caused or permitted to be carried out or continued to be carried out in the SAC, unless it is with the consent of the Minister.

It is an offence to contravene any Direction by carrying out any of the listed activities within the site unless the activity is carried out with the consent of the Minister or another statutory authority (in practice, such consent should be sought initially from the Department's National Parks and Wildlife Service https://www.npws.ie/contact-us).

The full list of Activities Requiring Consent that apply to this site including the newly added ARC 35 are:

| ARC 01 | Reclamation, including infilling  |
|--------|---|
| ARC 03 | Blasting, drilling, dredging or otherwise removing or disturbing fossils, rock, minerals, mud, sand, gravel or other sediment   |
| ARC 05 | Cutting, uprooting or otherwise removing plants. [Consent is not required for harvesting of cultivated crops, or for grazing or mowing.]  |
| ARC 06 | Introduction, or re-introduction, of plants or animals not found in the area. [Consent is not required for the planting of crops on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land.]   |
| ARC 08 | Undertaking scientific research involving the collection and removal of biological material   |
| ARC 09 | Construction or alteration of tracks, paths, roads, bridges, culverts or access routes  |
| ARC 10 | Construction, removal or alteration of fences, stone walls, hedgerows, banks or any field boundary other than temporary electric fencing. [Consent is not required for normal maintenance.]   |
| ARC 11 | Digging, ploughing, harrowing or otherwise disturbing soil or substrate. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 50m from a river, stream, floodplain, wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]                                     |
| ARC 12 | Applying inorganic or organic fertiliser, including slurry and farmyard manure. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.] |
| ARC 13 | Applying lime. [Consent is not required for this activity on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]   |
| ARC 14 | Storage, burial, disposal or recovery of any materials. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]                         |
| ARC 15 | Burning, topping, clearing scrub or rough vegetation or reseeding. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland,                                       |

lake, turlough or pond.]

| ARC 18 | Application of pesticides, including herbicides. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]  |
|--------|---|
| ARC 19 | Supplementary feeding of livestock. [Consent is not required for this activity on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]  |
| ARC 20 | Significant changes in livestock density (including introduction of grazing), changes in livestock type or grazing season, other than on established reseeded grassland. [Consent is not required for changes of less than 20% in livestock density unless notice has been given that a lower percentage is applicable to a particular site.] |
| ARC 21 | Grazing of livestock between 1st April and 31st October on traditional winterages   |
| ARC 22 | Changing of agricultural use from hay meadow to any other use   |
| ARC 24 | Works on, or alterations to, the banks, bed or flow of a drain, watercourse or waterbody  |
| ARC 25 | Drainage works including digging, deepening, widening or blocking a drain, watercourse or waterbody   |
| ARC 27 | Water abstraction, sinking of boreholes and wells   |
| ARC 29 | Planting of trees or multi-annual bioenergy crops   |
| ARC 31 | Developing or consenting to the development or operation of commercial recreational/visitor facilities or organised recreational activities   |
| ARC 35 | Undertaking active acoustic surveys in the marine environment   |
| ARC 36 | Harvesting marine invertebrate species in intertidal areas  |
| ARC 37 | Driving mechanically propelled vehicles in intertidal areas, except over prescribed access routes   |

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

