

**Addition of Harbour Porpoise as a new Qualifying Interest
and the addition of an Activity Requiring Consent to
Lough Swilly Special Area of Conservation 002287
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 Harbour Porpoise as a Qualifying Interest to Lough Swilly SAC 002287 in County Donegal.

The full list of Qualifying Interests, including the newly added Harbour Porpoise, for Lough Swilly 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
1130	Estuaries
1150	Coastal lagoons*
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)
6410	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles

Animal and Plant Species

Natura 2000 Code	Common Name	Scientific Name
1351	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
1355	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>

The addition of Harbour Porpoise as a Qualifying Interest 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 these Directions by carrying out any of the 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, including the newly added ARC 35, that apply to this site are:

ARC Code	Description
ARC 01	Reclamation, including infilling.
ARC 02	Stocking or re-stocking with fish.
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 reseeded. [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 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 28 Felling of trees or removing timber, including dead wood.
- 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.

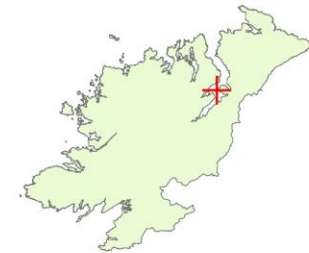
22nd March 2024

Sceideal 1 / Schedule 1

LIMISTÉAR FAOI CHAOMHNÚ SPEISIALTA SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

-  Limistéar faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta
Special Area of Conservation
-  Rialachán 4(1)(b) Innéacs Mapa Mionsonraithe
Regulation 4(1)(b) Detail Map Index

LCS Loch Súilí
Lough Swilly SAC
002287
Achar / Area 9,298.20 ha



Co. Dhún na nGall
Co. Donegal



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Cúrsa Coimheánáidí: Trastailgán Mercator na hÉireann / Coordinate System: Irish Transverse Mercator

Leagan / Version: 3.03

Arna chló an / Printed on: 07/08/2018

