

# National Parks and Wildlife Service

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## *Conservation Objectives Series*

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Inishtrahull SAC 000154



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

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Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



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## 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*

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000154      Inishtrahull SAC

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1230      Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

**Please note that this SAC overlaps with Inishtrahull SPA (004100). See map 2. The conservation objective for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping site as appropriate.**

## Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: [www.npws.ie/Publications](http://www.npws.ie/Publications)

### NPWS Documents

<b>Year :</b>	2011
<b>Title :</b>	National survey and assessment of the conservation status of Irish sea cliffs
<b>Author :</b>	Barron, S.J.; Delaney, A.; Perrin, P.M.; Martin, J.; O'Neill, F.
<b>Series :</b>	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 53
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2016
<b>Title :</b>	Inishtrahull SAC (site code: 154) Conservation objectives supporting document- coastal habitats V1
<b>Author :</b>	NPWS
<b>Series :</b>	Conservation objectives supporting document
<hr/>	

### Other References

<b>Year :</b>	1988
<b>Title :</b>	The Irish red data book 1. Vascular plants
<b>Author :</b>	Curtis, T.G.F.; McGough, H.N.
<b>Series :</b>	Wildlife Service, Dublin
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2005
<b>Title :</b>	National inventory of sea cliffs and coastal heaths
<b>Author :</b>	Browne, A.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished Report to NPWS
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## Spatial data sources

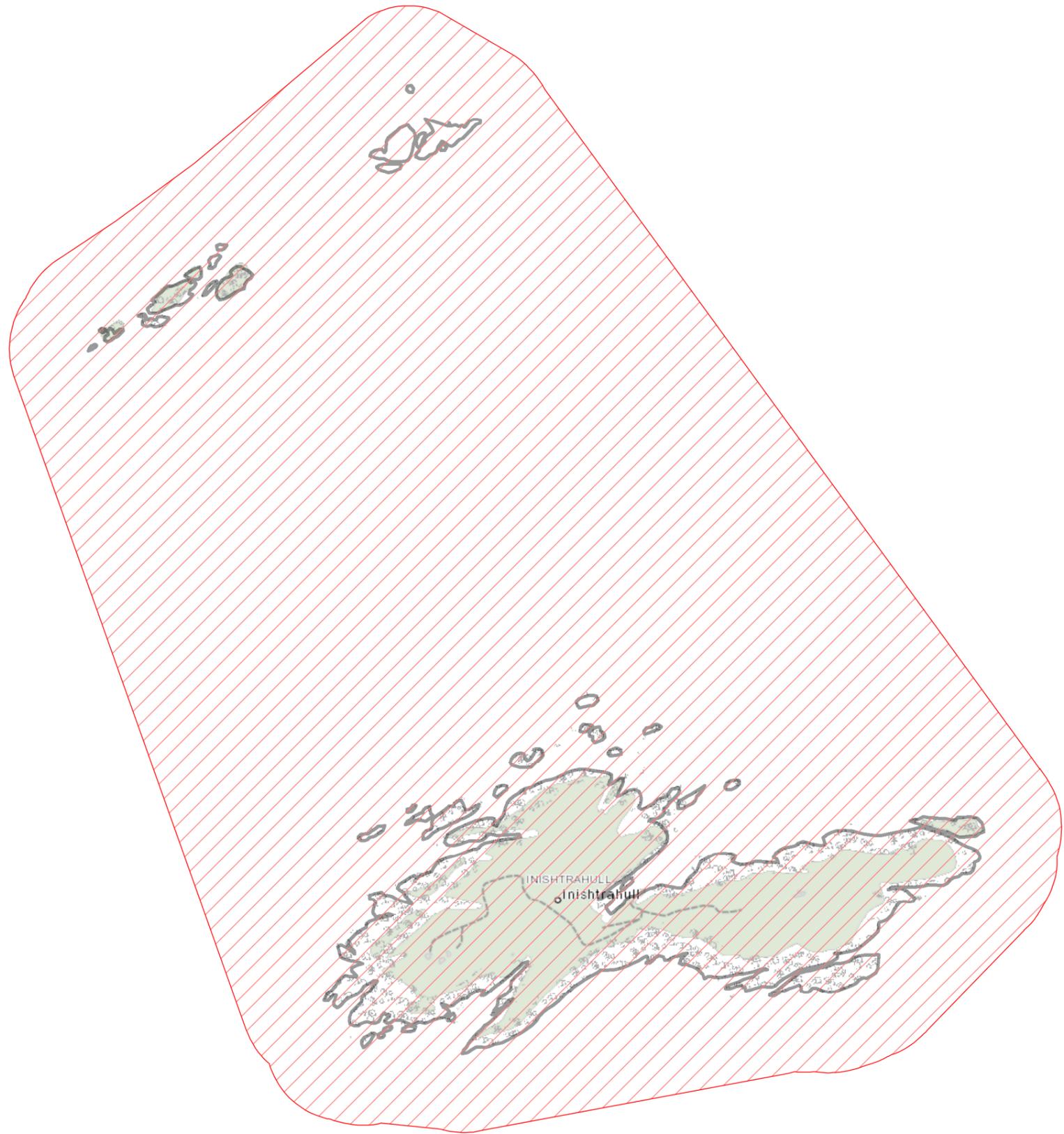
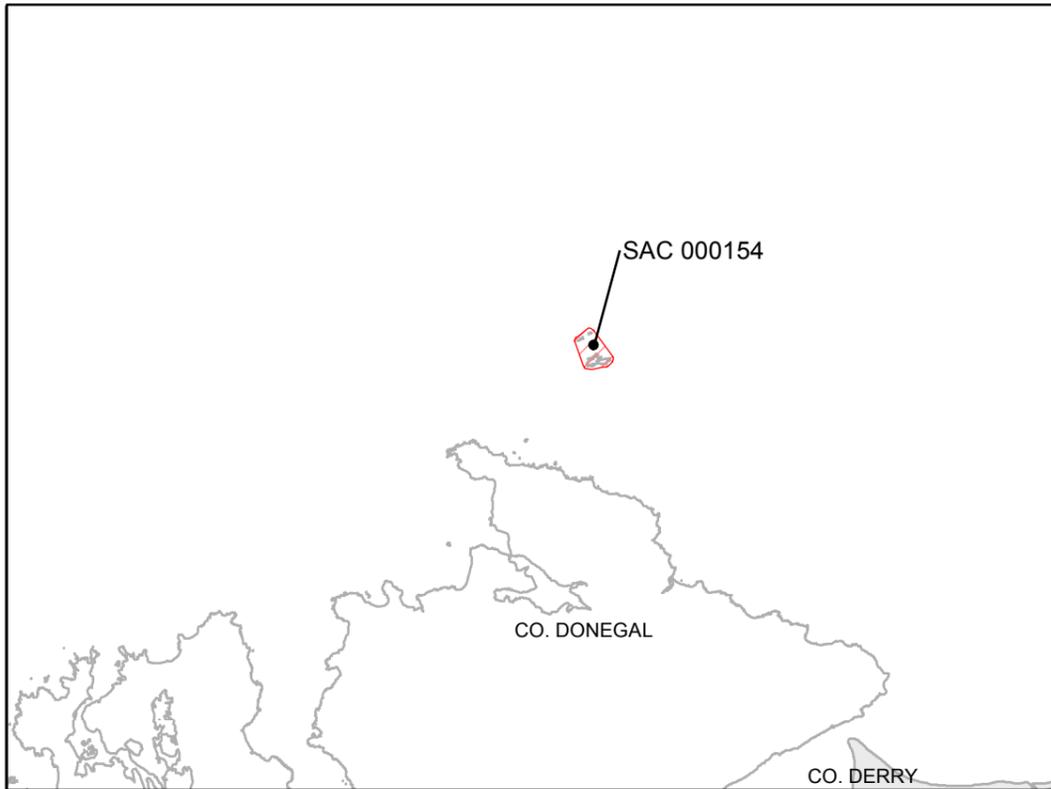
**Year :** 2011  
**Title :** National survey and assessment of the conservation status of Irish sea cliffs  
**GIS Operations :** Clipped to SAC boundary  
**Used For :** 1230 (map 3)

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**1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts**

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

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat length	Kilometres	Area stable, subject to natural processes, including erosion. See map 3	Cliffs are linear features and are therefore measured in kilometres. The National Inventory of Sea Cliffs and Coastal Heath (Browne, 2005) estimated the length of cliff within Inishtrahull SAC to be approximately 4km. This figure is likely to be an underestimate. See the Inishtrahull SAC conservation objectives supporting document for coastal habitats for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 3	See map 3 for the distribution of sea cliffs within Inishtrahull SAC as identified by Browne (2005). Hard cliffs have been noted in this SAC and it is thought that all of the cliffs are of the hard type (Browne, 2005). See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and hydrological regime	Occurrence of artificial barriers	No alteration to natural functioning of geomorphological and hydrological processes, including groundwater quality, due to artificial structures	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). Maintaining natural geomorphological processes, including natural erosion, is important for the health of vegetated sea cliffs. Hydrological processes maintain flushes, and in some cases tufa formations, that can be associated with sea cliffs. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of sea cliff habitat zonation including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). Grassland vegetation occurs adjacent to sea cliff vegetation in Inishtrahull SAC, with trees entirely lacking. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in the Irish Sea Cliff Survey (Barron et al., 2011)	The vegetation of the cliffs at Inishtrahull SAC contains plant species that are typically associated with maritime grassland and crevices and ledges of hard cliffs. The Red Data Book (Curtis and McGough, 1988) species Scots lovage ( <i>Ligusticum scoticum</i> ) occurs. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage	Negative indicator species (including non-native species) to represent less than 5% cover	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: bracken and woody species	Percentage	Cover of bracken ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> ) on grassland and/or heath less than 10%. Cover of woody species on grassland and/or heath less than 20%	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). The vegetation of the interior of the island of Inishtrahull is predominantly grassland; trees are entirely lacking. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details



**Legend**

 Inishtrahull SAC 000154

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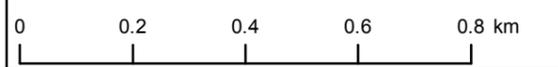
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**MAP 1:  
INISHTRAHULL SAC  
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES  
SAC DESIGNATION**

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

**SITE CODE:  
SAC 000154; version 3.01 CO. DONEGAL**

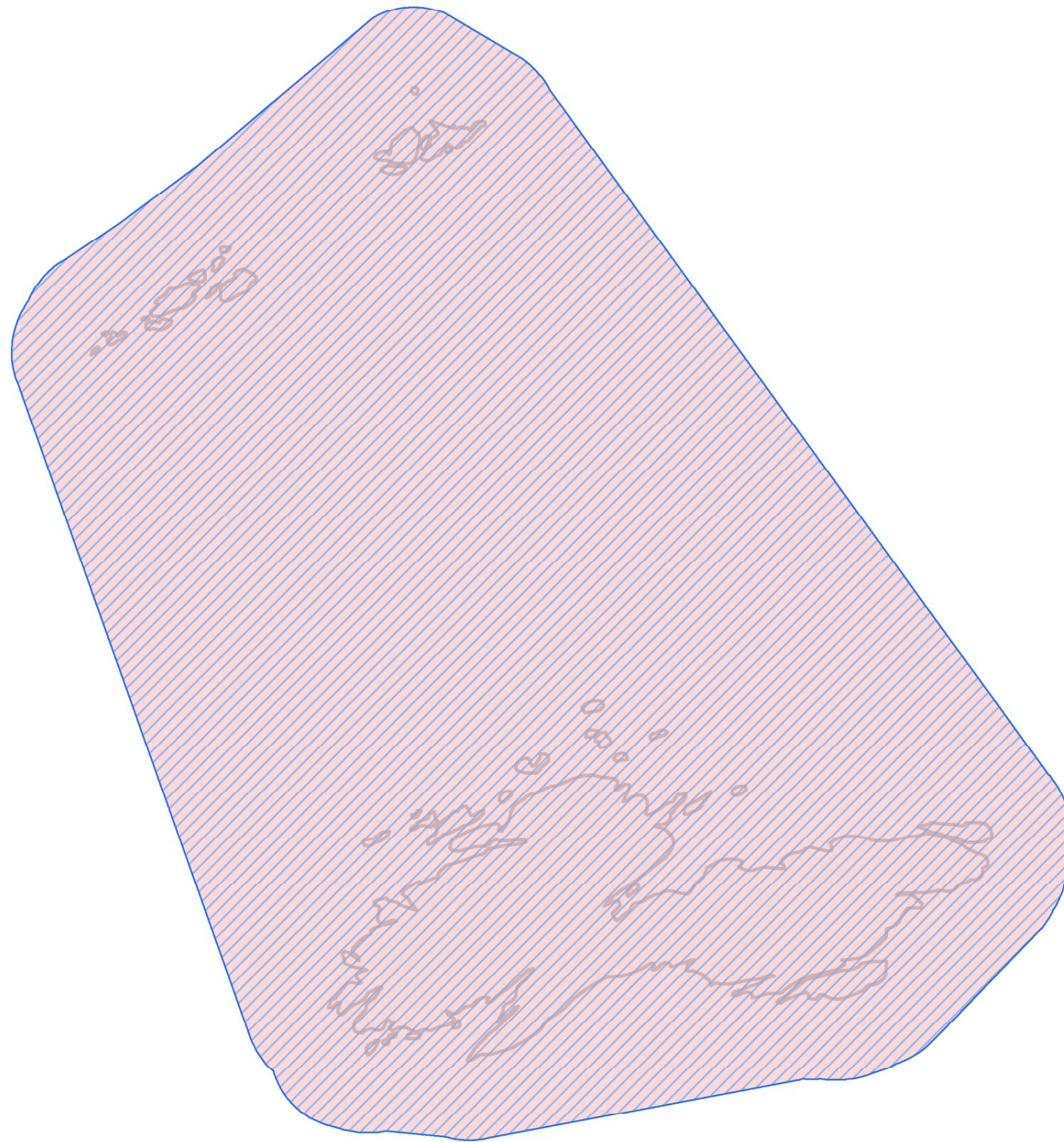


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**Map Version 1  
Date: Oct 2016**



**Legend**

- Inishtrahull SAC 000154
- Inishtrahull SPA 004100
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary



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**MAP 2:  
INISHTRAHULL SAC  
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES  
ADJOINING / ADJACENT AND  
OVERLAPPING DESIGNATIONS**

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

**SITE CODE:  
SAC 000154; version 3.01. SPA 004100; version 3.01  
CO. DONEGAL**

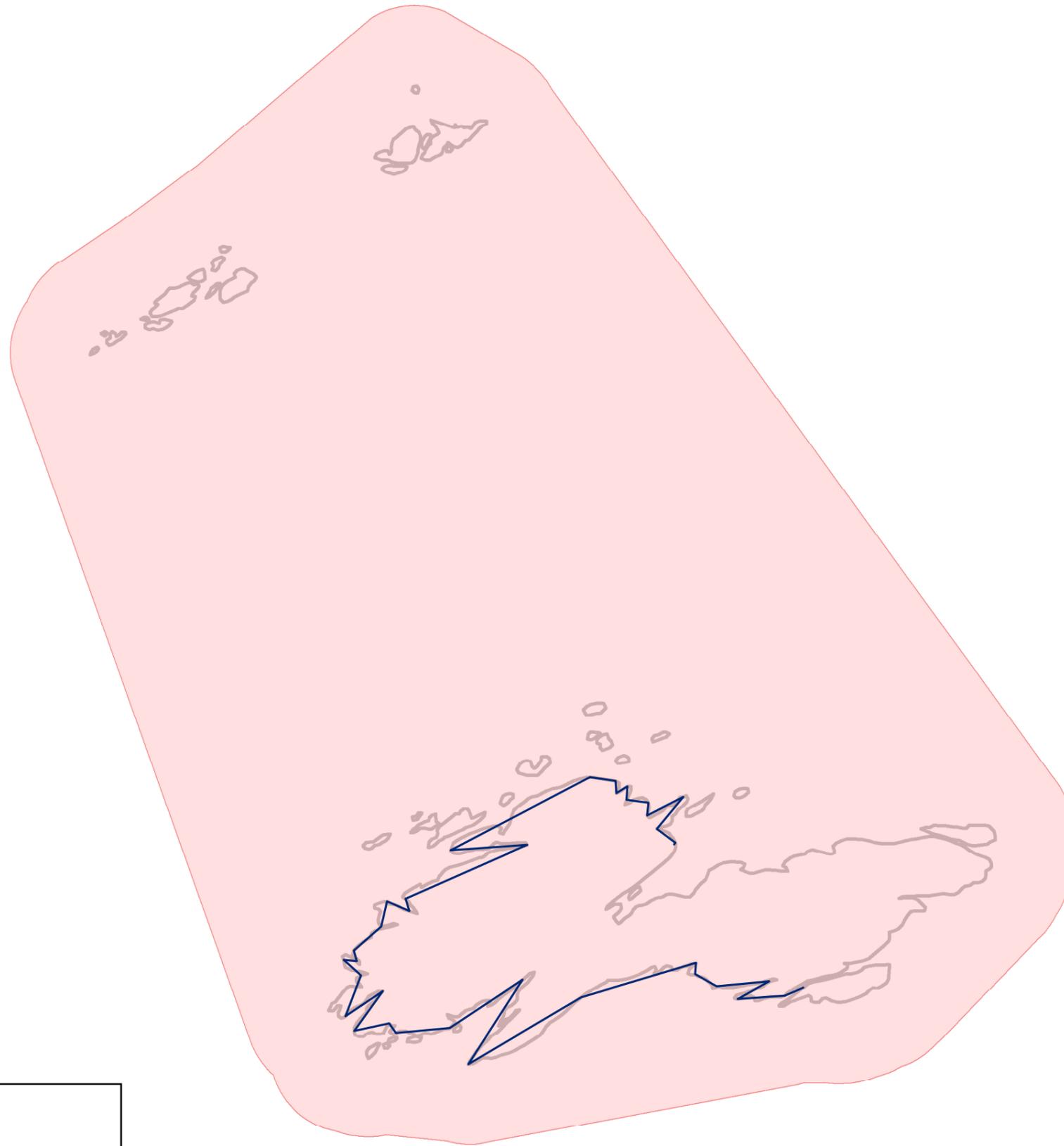
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 km

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**Map Version 1  
Date: Oct 2016**



**Legend**

- 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
- Inishtrahull SAC 000154



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**MAP 3:  
ARAN ISLAND (DONEGAL) CLIFFS SAC  
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES  
VEGETATED SEA CLIFFS**

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

**SITE CODE:  
SAC 000111; version 3. CO. DONEGAL**

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 km

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**Map Version 1  
Date: Oct 2016**